Comelec upholds sacking of top PNP execs

STORY ON PAGE A2

'Kaka' out but rains remain

By G. Lacuarta

TYPHOON "Kaka" has moved farther away from the country, but western sections of Luzon and the Visayas will con-

KAKA/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Malacañang wooing two more senators

Move designed to 'provide stability in the Senate'

By Carlito Pablo and Carla P. Gomez,
PDI Visayas Bureau

WHO'S next?

Administration officials admitted yesterday that they were continuing to court opposition senators in order to "provide stability in the Senate."

In Silay City, Negros Occidental, Senate President Franklin Drilon said one or two more opposition senators might join the administration bloc soon, but declined to identify them.

"Allow us to work without much publicity. We can assure you that we are doing this thing in order that we will not go through once more the experience of a deadlock and (thus) provide stability in the Senate," he said.

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the administration was keeping the door open for more opposition defectors.

"Any further moves by parties from the other side without any preconditions would certainly be welcomed," Bunye said.

On Sunday, Bunye said in a teleconference that it was to the "interest of the administration" if one or two more opposition senators switch sides.

Reports have consistently identified Senators Vicente Sotto III and Rodolfo Biazon as the next to follow in the footsteps of Sen. Robert Jaworski, who defected on Sunday, and Sen. Blas Ople, who accepted the President's offer to serve as foreign secretary on Wednesday.

Sotto has accepted the President's invitation to serve as

MALACAÑANG/A16

COMFORT, condolences and thanks for the Burnham family in the Oval Office of the White House where President George W. Bush meets Gracia, her children Melinda Joy, 12, far left, Paul, 15, and the late Martin Burnham's mother, Oreta. AP

Bush invites Burnhams to White House

WASHINGTON—The Kansas missionary who survived 377 days of captivity in the jungles of Basilan said Wednesday that her Abu Sayyaf captors were "criminals" who "deserve to be punished."

Gracia Burnham, who met with President George W. Bush at the White House and lawmakers in Congress, said the indictment of her kidnappers was "a positive first step" toward justice. She said Bush was fighting her kidnappers and other terrorists "to make the world a better place for our children."

"He just told us that they were going to continue this fight," she said. "I agree wholeheartedly with everything that he said."

The five most wanted leaders of the Abu Sayyaf—Khadaffy Janjalani, Isnilon Hapilon, Aldam Tilao alias Abu Sabaya, Jainal Sali and Hamsiraji Sali—are under indictment by the US Department of Justice, although none is in custody.

Sabaya, spokesperson of the band, was reportedly killed by government troops last month. But his body has yet to be found.

"The men who abducted us and held us, who murdered some and mistreated others, who kept us running and starving in the

BUSH/A18

Politicians laud Ople; militants call him 'Amboy'

By Cynthia D. Balana, Gerald G. Lacuarta and Christine Avendaño

SEN. Blas Ople's appointment as foreign secretary drew praise from both administration and opposition senators, but an organization of overseas Filipino workers denounced him as "the man who gave birth to the modern Filipino slave."

Migrante International secretary general Poe M. Gratela also said it was "an open secret" that Ople was an "American boy." He said it was clear that the US government had a hand in the appointment because "it is bent on increasing its so-called military exercises and outright intervention in the Philippines."

Gratela also said that "along with President Macapagal-Arroyo, Senator Ople is among this country's US puppets."

US Embassy spokesperson Karen Kelly told reporters that the US government was "looking forward to working with" Ople, who earlier said that he was "accepting the call from the President to help her build a strong republic in the field of international affairs."

Party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo (Bayan Muna) and Loretta Ann Rosales (Akbayan) said Ople's appointment to the Department of Foreign Affairs could only mean the approval of the controversial RP-US Mutual Logistics

POLITICIANS/ A18

Angara helped Jawo restructure loan—Joker

By Rocky Nazareno

AS CHAIR of the Philippine National Bank (PNB), Sen. Edgardo Angara helped restructure a loan of Sen. Robert Jaworski in 1999, Sen. Joker Arroyo yesterday said.

"That's why Jaworski is fearless (in accusing Angara) because of this," Arroyo said.

Jaworski had earlier accused Angara of being behind reports that he agreed to defect to the administration bloc in the Senate in exchange for the deferment of collection on his alleged P300-million loan with the government-controlled PNB.

Angara, running mate of Joseph Estrada in the 1998 presidential election, was named PNB chair a year after the ban on the appointments of losing candidates to government positions lapsed. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo trounced Angara in the race for the vice presidency.

"Now you know what I mean," Jaworski told the INQUIRER when asked what he meant by the "rock, solid evidence" he had to prove that Angara was behind the black propaganda.

When reached for comment, Angara said he "stands by his earlier statement that he has nothing to do with the black propaganda against Jaworski."

ANGARA/ A18

Gloria rues transfer of Nida's case

By Carlito Pablo

WAS it one of her so-called political mistakes?

President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday she regrets having transferred the jurisdiction of the celebrated Nida Blanca slay case from the Philippine National Police to the National Bureau of Investigation.

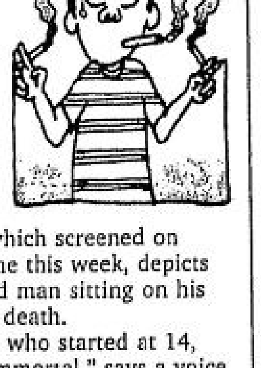
If she had not submitted to the "clamor to transfer the jurisdiction," then Rod Strunk, the actress' husband and the principal suspect, would not have been allowed to leave the country in January, she said.

The President said the NBI investigation merely confirmed the earlier findings of the PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

"I should have made a tough

GLORIA/ A6

Smokers shocked into quitting


NAYKOOO... LAST NA 'TO!

PARIS—Still dying for a smoke? A new anti-smoking campaign in France hopes to shock smokers into kicking the habit—using real-life images of a man dying of lung cancer.

The health warning, which screened on television for the first time this week, depicts an emaciated 49-year-old man sitting on his bed, five days before his death.

"This is just a smoker, who started at 14, when you think you're immortal," says a voice on the 27-second film. "He could never stop."

Images of the man's life appear on his bedroom wall throughout the film that ends with a warning: "Starting at 14 is fatal."

SMOKERS/ A6

CAP policy holders fear for kids' future

By Elena R. Torrijos

PLAN holders of College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP) are worried that the country's biggest pre-need firm is suffering from P2.5 billion in trust fund deficiency.

"*Mag-ra-Rambo ako* (I will do a Rambo)," Ramon Renia, who sells chickens, said if CAP failed to pay for the college education of his only child, who is now in high school.

"*Yung lahat na naihulog ko umabot ng P155,000* (All in all I paid P155,000). *Hirap na hirap ako maghulog* (I found it difficult to pay for the plan)," he said.

Renia is one of the 500,000 CAP plan holders who fear the negative consequences of CAP's trust fund deficiency.

CAP/ A16

GETTY IMAGES

GETTING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS
Working Santas, 120 of them from all over the world hold a congress in Copenhagen, Denmark, where they make merry and remind humankind that the Yuletide season is only five months away.

Second FRONT PAGE

Comelec upholds PNP shakeup

AGLIPAY

By TJ Burgonio

IT'S official now.

Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay of the National Capital Region police and six other top-ranked police officials who were ordered relieved for their alleged failure to curb illegal gambling are to step down today.

The Commission on Elections yesterday approved the recommendation from the National Police Commission (Napolcom) for their relief, the police director for personnel said.

Director Virtus Gil said he has been verbally informed of the Comelec approval and has instructed the designated replacements of the seven police officials "to prepare to take over."

The Comelec approval came five days before the poll body was to lift the election ban on government personnel movements.

Aside from Aglipay, also stepping down today are: Director Avelino Razon (Region 7); Chief Superintendents Reynaldo Berroya (Region 3), Domingo Reyes (Region 4), and Nicolas Pasinos (Manila); and Senior Superintendents Antonio Salvacion (Cebu province) and Leonilo de la Cruz (Laguna province).

Interior Secretary Joey Lina, who chairs the Napolcom, had recommended their relief for failing to stamp out *jueteng*, an illegal numbers game.

The Philippine National Police sought approval for the dismissals from the Comelec because of the ban against personnel movements during an election period.

Those named as their replacements in an acting capacity were: Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco for Aglipay; Chief Supt. Oscar Calderon for Berroya; Senior Supt. Medardo Apacible for Reyes; Senior Supt. Alejandro Lapinid for Razon; Senior Supt. Maximo Calimlim for Salvacion; Senior Supt. Arnulfo Espiritu for De la Cruz, and Senior Supt. Pedro Bulaong for Pasinos.

Gil said the relief of the seven police officials would bring changes to the PNP directorial staff.

For instance, other officials would have to be appointed to replace Velasco as director for comptrollership and Calderon as deputy director for investigation and detective management.

Director Victor Signey, director for research and development, has been named to replace Velasco.

Meanwhile, Aglipay and the others will be assigned to the Headquarters Support Service (HSS) in Camp Crame while waiting to be given their next assignment.

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. has so far not given any instructions to line them up for any posts, Gil said.

Gil had said earlier that as soon as their relief took effect, the seven would be considered for other positions, " give or take two or three months."

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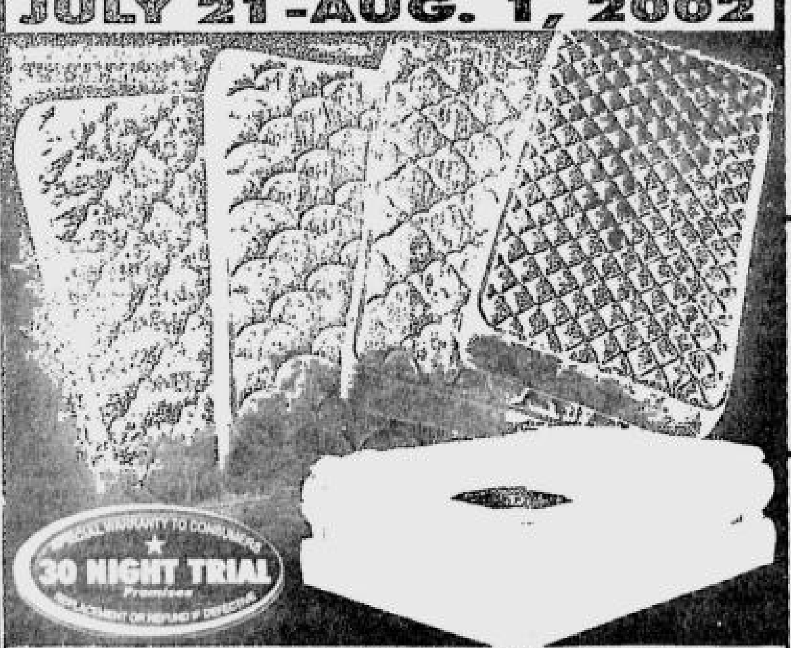
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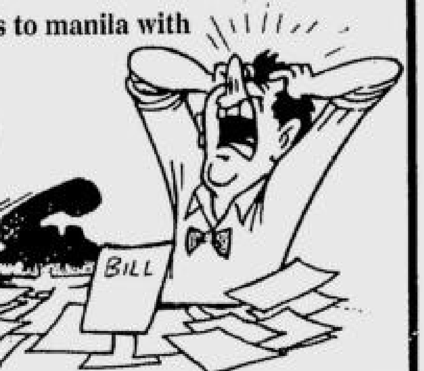

Joe de V backs FVR man for Desierto post

BAGUIO CITY—Speaker Jose de Venecia has nominated a former congressman identified with former President Fidel Ramos for the Ombudsman post.

Lawyer Edgar Avila, a youth sector representative during the Ninth and 10th congresses, was endorsed to the Judicial and Bar Council to replace Ombudsman Aniano Desierto who retires early next month.

"With Avila's youth and idealism coupled with his experience as a lawyer, legislator, law dean and teacher, his selection as Ombudsman would best serve the country," De Venecia said in a press statement.

Avila, a former law dean of Baguio's Saint Louis University, is a member of the Lakas-NUCD-UMDP. If chosen, he will become at 43 the country's youngest Ombudsman.

In Cotabato City, Interior Secretary Jose Lina claimed that his own candidate for the post, Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida, has "the edge."

Lina said Calida, who is from Davao, could beat the other aspirants—Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio, Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo and State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño.

Lina and two other Cabinet secretaries—Trade Secretary Mar Roxas and Finance Secretary Jose Camacho—as well as various sectors have supported Calida's nomination.

Roxas said it was Calida who drafted the Anti-Money Laundering Bill and was "recognized by the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering as a legal expert."

Avila acknowledged that his nomination could be controversial because of his links with Ramos.

Various sectors have called for the investigation of the power contracts and the controversial Public Estates Authority-Amari deal concluded during the Ramos administration.

"I realize (that my Ramos connection) will be raised, but I assure the public that my loyalty to the man and his party ends when my loyalty to the country begins," Avila said. ***Vincent Cabreza and Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

BIR, Customs face sanction for shortfall

By Carlito Pablo

BUDGET Secretary Emilia Boncodin yesterday hinted that sanctions might be imposed against the Bureaus of Internal Revenue and Customs for failing to meet their revenue targets.

Boncodin, however, did not specify what kind of sanctions would be slapped on the chiefs of both revenue agencies if they don't meet targets.

Boncodin said in an interview over dzMM that for the first six months of the year, the government's revenue collections were short by P35 billion.

She said that this is not helping the government stabilize its increasing budget deficit.

"The BIR and BOC are both short" on collections, Boncodin said.

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that he had spoken to BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez, who told him that Bañez intended to make a report in the next Cabinet meeting.

BANEZ

A House leader, Rep. Aniceto Saludo of Southern Leyte, had asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to fire Bañez for the BIR's failure to meet its six-month revenue target by some P27 billion.

Saludo called Bañez "a dud, a certified NPA—non-performing asset."

Bunye said he had also talked to Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo, who also promised to render a report soon.

Bañez supposedly informed Bunye that his agency's targets were based on certain assumptions of economic growth that have not materialized.

"Normally the assumptions are based on how the economy would move," Bunye said. "If these assumptions turn out to be not in accord with what is happening, then he should be given allowance as far as the shortfall is concerned."

Ms Macapagal had made special mention of Bañez during her State of the Nation Address last year, but she was silent of the BIR and its chief in her recent address on Monday.

Saludo said the President purposely did not mention Bañez in her address because she was embarrassed that the BIR was not meeting its revenue targets.

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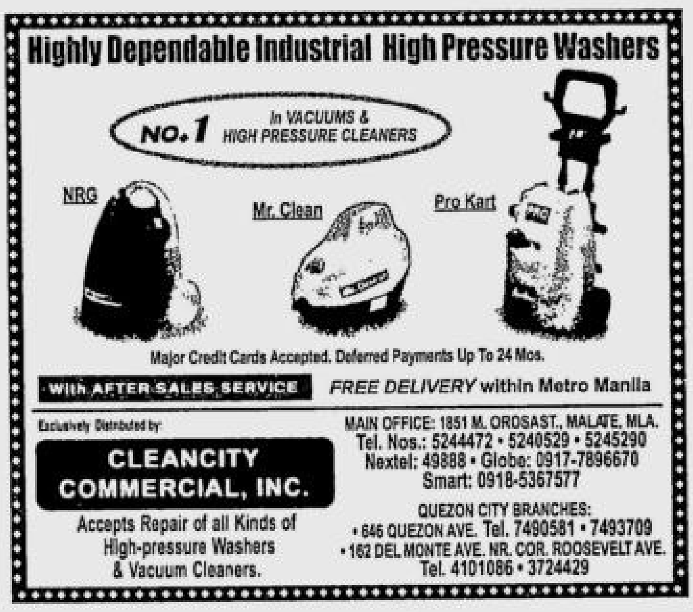

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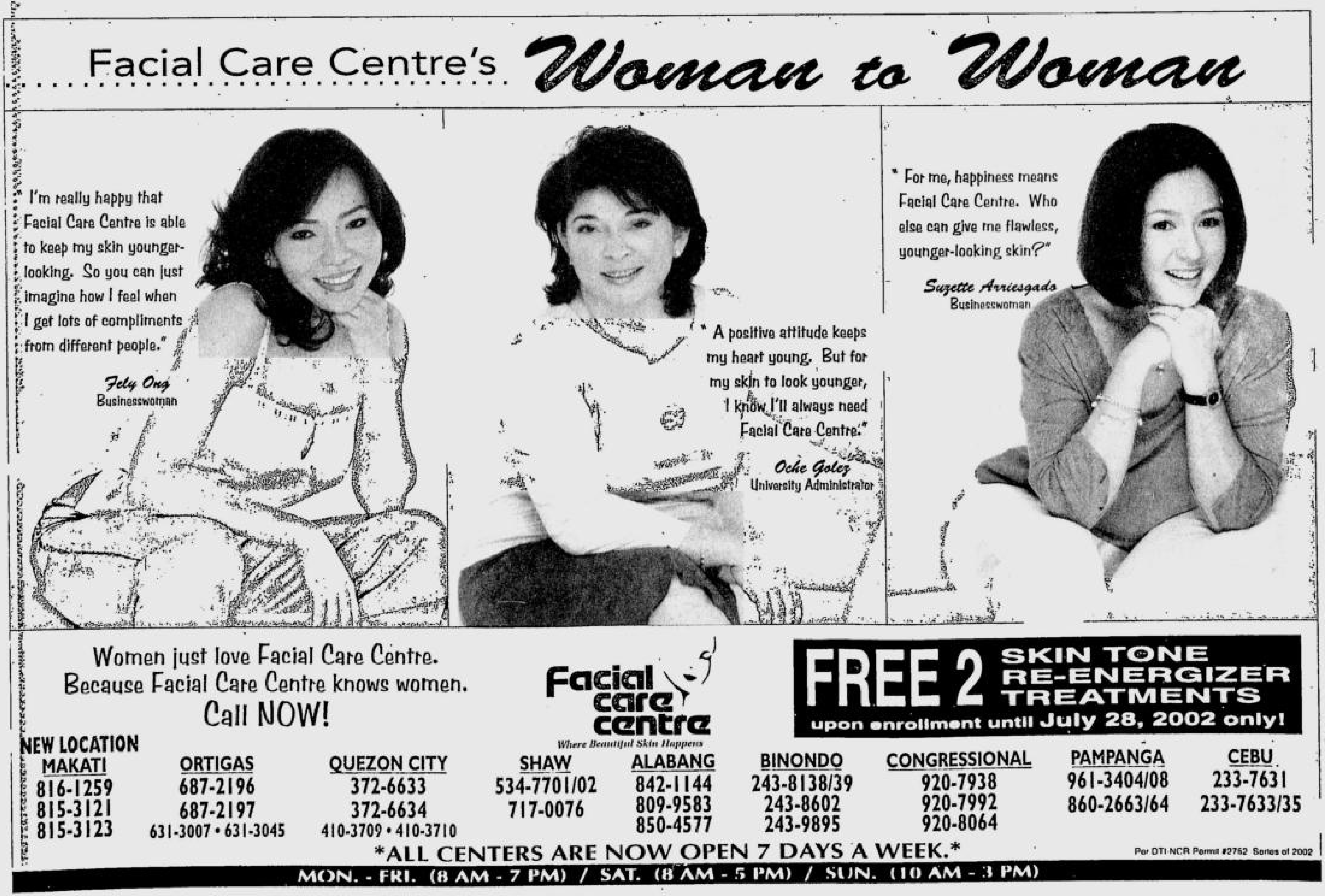

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Big business gives Gloria good marks

BIG business has given President Macapagal-Arroyo the thumbs for her economic management but says she could do better on fighting crime and corruption, according to a survey released yesterday.

The May survey of 1,000 top business executives showed more support for the government's economic and financial management compared to efforts to reduce corruption or address law and order problems, Pulse Asia Inc. said.

On a scale of 1-10, Arroyo got an average 6.4 for a "generally positive assessment" for the way the Philippine economy has been managed, the pollster said.

However, "it also clearly suggests that there is room for further improvement."

Ms Macapagal got a low 4.1 average rating on efforts to reduce corruption, "which may be interpreted as a pronounced skepticism over government efforts."

Her efforts to rein in law and order problems got a scarcely better rating of 4.8 percent.

The President pledged in her state of the nation address on Monday to focus on fighting crime and corruption and on reducing the cost of electricity over the next year. *AFP*

HOPELESSNESS IN RP

It's pollster vs pollster

By Carlito Pablo

A CONTROVERSIAL recent survey indicating that many Filipinos have given up on the country and want to emigrate is pitting two polling organizations against each other.

The contending parties are the pioneering Social Weather Stations Inc. headed by economist Mahar Mangahas and Pulse Asia Inc., a polling firm set up by academic Felipe Miranda who is a former SWS fellow.

Malacañang yesterday said the "respected" SWS had "taken issue" with the Pulse Asia survey that showed that 31 percent of respondents in the upper ABC class had given up hope on the Philippines and would migrate to another country if given the chance.

The same Pulse Asia survey also found that one out of every five Filipinos, or 19 percent, wanted to leave the country, the Palace noted in an official statement.

'Double-barreled'

Malacañang said it had received a letter from Mangahas saying that the question in the survey that Pulse Asia conducted from March to April, was "double-barreled."

The question that Pulse Asia posed to respondents, answerable by "agree" or "disagree" was: "There is no hope for this country. If possible, I would migrate to another country."

Mangahas claimed that the question tended "to cause ambiguity in interpretation."

"One cannot tell if an 'agree' answer means that the respondent feels there is no hope for the country (whether or not it is cause to migrate), or if it means that the respondent would want to migrate to another country for any other reason," said Mangahas as quoted by Malacañang.

Malacañang noted that the 16 percent of the SWS respondents who answered "agree" to the question—that is, admitting to a feeling of "hopelessness"—was "identical with the 16 percent that agreed to the same question in a survey conducted in July 1993, the second year of the Ramos administration."

"Significantly, the percentage of those who had the feeling of 'hopelessness' about the country had declined in March 2002 (16 percent) from the 26 percent in July 2001," Malacañang said.

Still quoting Mangahas, Malacañang said the SWS had discontinued the use of the "question-design" in its surveys because of the tendency of respondents to interpret the question in different ways.

'Prophets of doom'

President Macapagal-Arroyo herself took exception to the publication last month of the results of the Pulse Asia survey, which was given prominence in the INQUIRER.

Taking issue with the treatment of the survey results, Ms Macapagal said that some sectors of the media were acting like "prophets of doom."

She pointed out that the media did not play up the fact that 60 percent of the respondents disagreed with the statement that there was nothing to hope for in the country and that it was better to migrate.

For the record, Pulse Asia said 19 percent agreed with this statement, while 20 percent were undecided.

Pulse Asia also said that the 19 percent represented an increase from the 14 percent noted in earlier surveys.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, July 26, 2002
St. Joachim and Anne

1st Reading: **Sir 44:1, 10-15**
Gospel: **Mt 13:16-17**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears, because they hear.

For I tell you that many prophets and upright people would have longed to see the things you hear, but they did not hear it."

Commentary

Tradition names the parents of Mary, the mother of Jesus—Grandpa Joachim and Granny Anne. Here we see God's humanity; he was born in a real family and grew up not only as a son but as a grandson as well.

Isn't it nice to imagine Jesus on the shoulders of Grandpa Joachim, or Jesus being cuddled by his Granny? Or when scolded by Mary or Joseph, Jesus could have turned to his grandparents for more understanding and attention. And what about his grandparents on Joseph's side?

Grandparents almost always tend to spoil their grandchildren, which could also have been the case with Joachim and Anne. But it is also from our grandparents that we are introduced to the wisdom that experience teaches.

Joachim and Anne help us to reflect more on the humanity of God.

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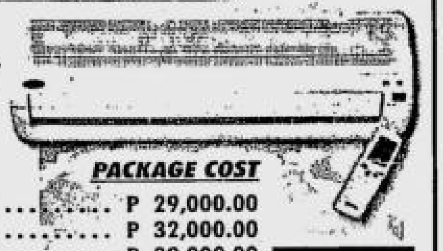

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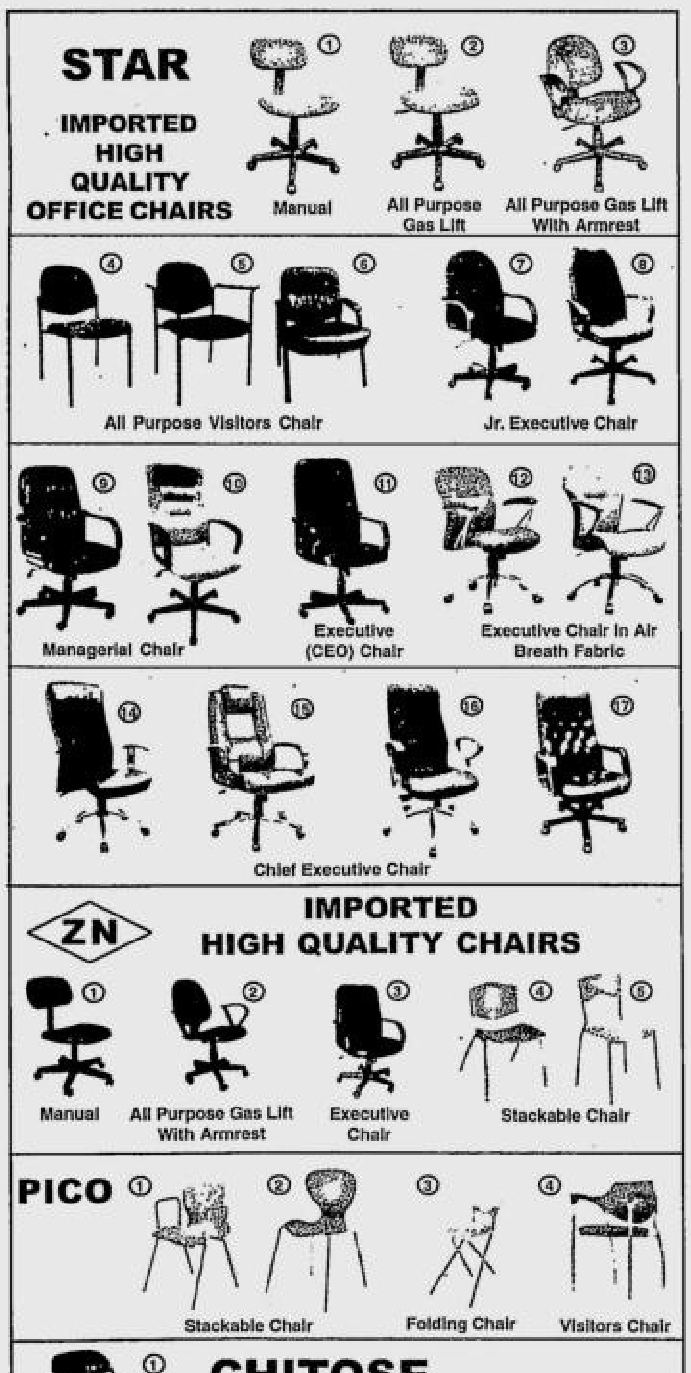
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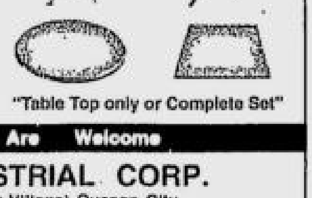
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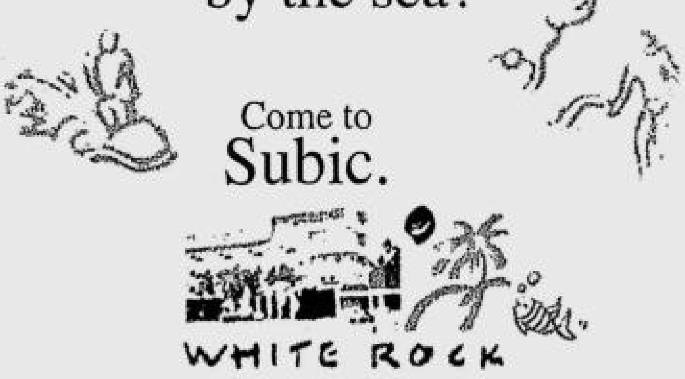

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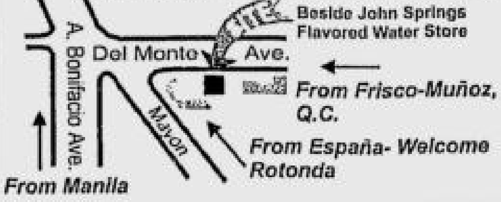

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Voters in 4 provinces go to polls on Sunday

VOTERS from the four provinces that have been adversely affected by the rains will troop to the polling places on Sunday to cast their ballots for the synchronized barangay and youth elections.

The Commission on Elections reset the polling date in Pampanga, Bataan, Tarlac and Bulacan to July 28 after the residents failed to go to their precincts due to bad weather last week.

In resolution No. 5402, the Comelec en banc directed the election officers to "ensure widespread dissemination of the scheduled special elections."

The election officers were also instructed to post notices in the public markets, barangay halls and health centers of the affected municipalities and cities.

The Comelec further said that if the floods don't subside by the weekend, the election officers were authorized to effect a change of polling centers as long as this is announced immediately.

Dipasupil, 87

LEONCIA Gran-Dipasupil, widow of journalist Francisco Dipasupil, died July 25. She was 87.

She was the mother of Oscar, Ester and Sylvia, and Sonia and Francisco Jr. (both deceased). She also left behind sons-in-law Johni Altomonte and Valentino Barros; and grandchildren Katrina and Selina Altomonte and Kiko, Miranda and Leon Barros.

The body lies at the Arlington Memorial Chapels on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. On Monday it will be taken to Bauan, Batangas. Interment is scheduled on Tuesday at the Bauan Catholic Cemetery.

SC upholds DNA as court evidence

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SUPREME Court yesterday upheld with finality its historic decision recognizing the acceptability of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) profiles as evidence in criminal proceedings.

In a full court resolution, the high tribunal declared that DNA profiles could be used to prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

The landmark decision was contained in a four-page resolution regarding the appeal lodged by Gerrico S. Vallejo, who had been sentenced to death by a Cavite City court for raping and killing a 9-year-old neighbor in 1999.

To establish Vallejo's guilt, the National Bureau of Investigation presented a DNA analysis done on vaginal swabs collected from the victim, which contained DNA profiles of the accused. The conviction was upheld by the high court on May 9, prompting the appeal.

Vallejo assailed the DNA analysis, referring to the procedure as "junk science." He also claimed that the arresting policemen had tortured him into producing bloodstained clothes that he was supposedly wearing on July 10, 1999, when the crimes were committed.

In siding with the lower court's decision, the SC maintained that DNA contained an individual's genetic code. Much like a fingerprint, the high court said, the uniqueness of each person's DNA set him apart from everyone else.

The SC pointed out that, on the other hand, DNA testing could "exonerate innocent individuals in rape cases and other violent crimes where human tissues are left in scenes of crime." DNA tests make use of dried blood, hair strands, nails or dead skin.

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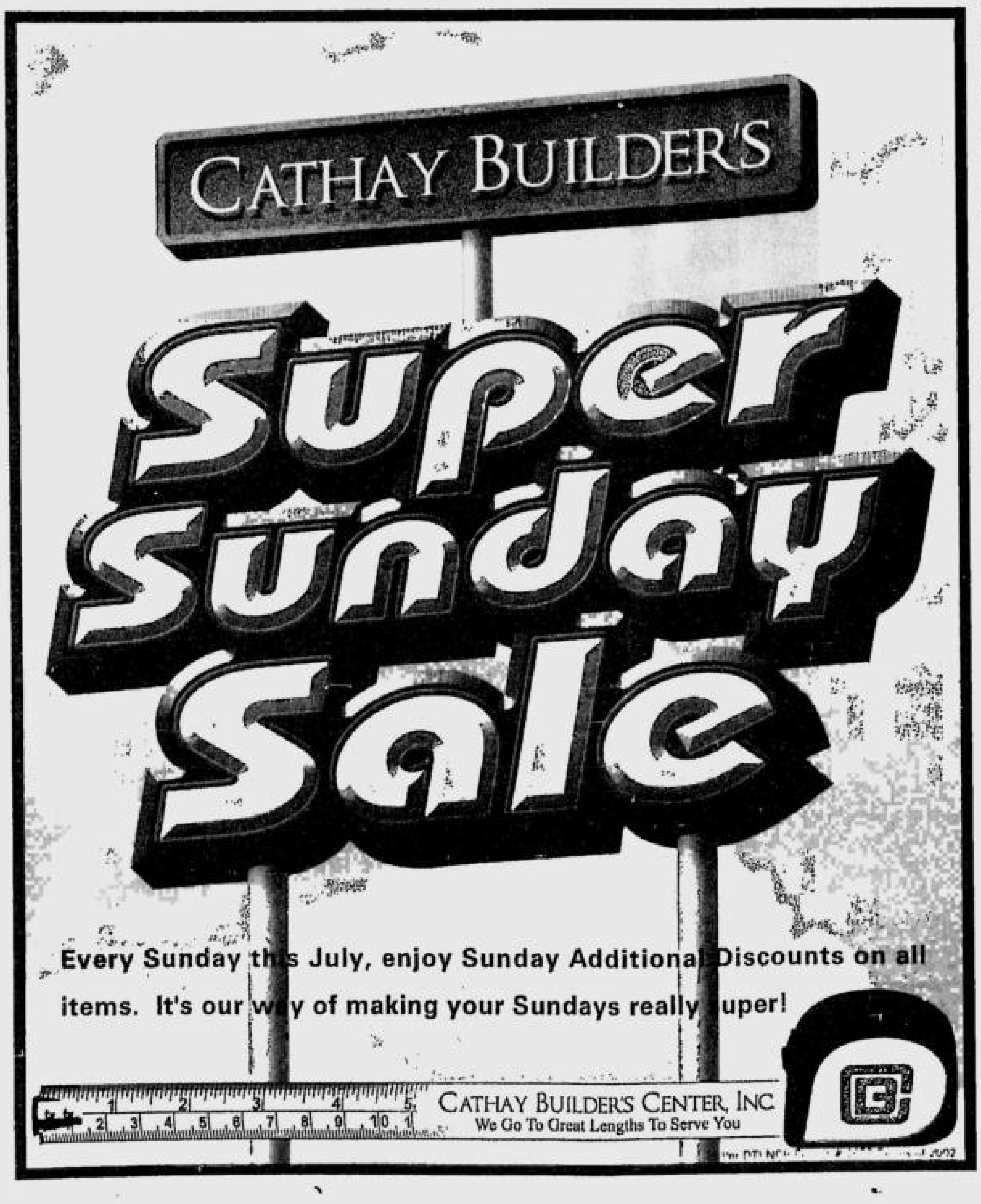

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Slim chance of asteroid collision with Earth in 2019

PASADENA, California—Astronomers said they are keeping close watch on a newly discovered 2-kilometer wide asteroid to determine whether it will collide with Earth in 2019.

There is a slight chance that the asteroid, dubbed 2002 NT7, could smack the Earth on Feb. 1, 2019, causing a global catastrophe.

Astronomers said the odds were one in 250,000 and further calculation would probably show it will miss the planet entirely.

It now heads the list of asteroids and comets monitored by Nasa but as scientists learn more it isn't expected to stay there.

"One way or another, this thing is coming off the risk page," said Donald Yeomans, manager of Nasa's near-Earth object program at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Astronomers with the Lincoln Near Earth Asteroid Research Project used a New Mexico telescope to discover the space rock on July 9, when it was about 135 million km from Earth. It is in orbit around the sun.

More than 100 follow-up observations allowed astronomers to calculate six other potential impact dates—in 2044, 2053, 2060 and 2078.

The asteroid will remain in the sights of astronomers for another year at least, allowing them to refine their estimates of its trajectory on its 837-day orbit.

"At that point, if it's still a threat, I'd start to get a little concerned, but not before then," said Gareth Williams, associate director of the Minor Planet Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

In other cases where potential Earth-crossing asteroids have been discovered, it has typically taken just days or weeks to determine they pose no threat. This asteroid, however, is larger than most and has attracted more interest.

Were the paths of 2002 NT7 and the Earth to cross, the object would cause widespread devastation. It would enter the atmosphere at nearly 64,000 mph and strike with the explosive energy of 1.2 million megatons of TNT, according to JPL estimates.

Last month, an asteroid the size of a soccer field missed the Earth by 120,675 km in one of the closest known approaches by an object that size. *AP*

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Gloria rues transfer of Nida Blanca's case

From page A1

decision and left it with the CIDG because it would have been resolved earlier," Ms Macapagal said Wednesday in a luncheon with Malacañang reporters.

A few weeks ago, the President admitted in a high-profile speech that she had made "political" mistakes "left and right." She said, however, that all her economic decisions were sound and in the national interest.

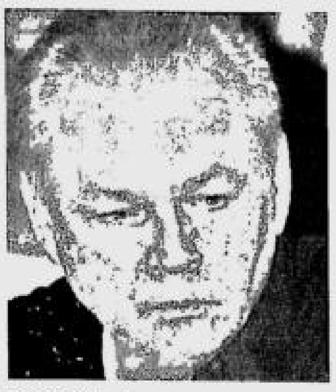
At the Palace lunch, the President recalled that the transfer was due to public clamor after the purported confessed killer, Philip Medel Jr., recanted his testimony in dramatic fashion. Medel claimed he was tortured by the police to confess to the crime.

"You see, this is what I mean by sometimes when you have democracy and people are talking, sometimes (it) delays decisive action," the President said.

Ms Macapagal admitted that she gave in to "the clamor to transfer the jurisdiction" to the NBI after Medel made a sensational recantation that was caught live on national TV.

"If we have not transferred the jurisdiction, Strunk would have not left the country," she said.

The President noted that when a government office "is being ridiculed too much, then you know that's it: you comply with public clamor." The CIDG was the lead agency in the composite Task Force Marsha, which collapsed in the wake of Medel's recantation.


ROD Strunk

But she told Palace reporters that this kind of decision-making would no longer be seen in her "strong republic."

"We will not have anymore of that now," said the President, who wove the "strong republic" theme into her State of the Nation Address on Monday.

Blanca was killed on Nov. 7, 2001. Within a few days, the CIDG had already arrested Medel, who in turn pointed to Strunk as the one who allegedly gave him the order to kill the popular actress.

Medel recanted his testimony a few days later, prompting the DOJ to dismiss the complaint against Strunk.

Smokers shocked into quitting

From page A1

The man shown, Richard Gourlain, had his wife film him hoping the footage could be used to discourage others from smoking, said Gerard Dubois, president of the National Anti-Smoking Committee that produced the film. Gourlain died in 1999.

"You can say it's sensational, it's too tough—but we wanted to show the truth," said Dubois. "These images correspond to reality."

The French committee decided to use shock tactics having seen the success of reality-based anti-smoking campaigns in Anglo-Saxon countries, he said.

"The tobacco industry lies to promote its products—all we have to do to destroy them is tell the truth," he added.

Another anti-smoking campaign screened on television and printed in newspapers last month alarmed many smokers.

The warning said a commonly consumed product had been found to contain toxic substances. It invited people to phone a toll-free number for information.

Half a million people called, and were told that the product was the cigarette.

The National Health Institute for Prevention and Education, which dreamed up the campaign, said it was a big success.

Smokers in France bought 83 billion cigarettes last year, about one percent more than in 2000, according to the Center for Documentation and Information about Tobacco, an association of tobacco companies and tobacconists.

Around 60,000 people die in France each year of smoking-related illnesses, according to the National Health Institute for Prevention and Education. *AP*

'Kaka' out but rains remain

From page A1

tinue to experience occasional monsoon rains today.

The weather bureau said the rest of the country would have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Weather forecaster Ric Fabregas said the typhoon would continue to enhance the southwest monsoon that has been dumping rains in the country.

Fabregas said a strong typhoon which has merged with Kaka in the area of Japan, with international name "Feng Shen," was far away from the Philippine area of responsibility and was not threatening the country at this time.

Kaka was estimated at 1,100 km east of Basco, Batanes—from 860 km on Wednesday—or at 800 km southeast of Okinawa, Japan, with strongest sustained winds of 120 kph near center and gustiness up to 150 kph. It is forecast to move east at 19 kph.

Festival of Parents in Alabang tomorrow

A FESTIVAL of Parents, a one-day affair for married couples, will be held tomorrow, July 27, at the St. Benedict's College in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

The festival, dubbed "Isang Pagdiriwang: Mag-asawa, Magulang," is sponsored by the Marriage and Family Life Commission of the Ecclesiastical District of Las Piñas and Muntinlupa under Bishop Jesse Mercado.

It is part of the preparation for the forthcoming World Meeting of Families that will be held in Manila in January 2003.

Pol and Nena Repotente will be the couple facilitators for some three hundred couples who are expected to attend the festival

Comelec eyes ₱6.6-B modernization fund

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE COMMISSION on Elections has proposed a P6.6-billion modernization fund for the next two years, P5 billion of which will go to projects reminiscent of the controversial Voters Registration and Identification System, which has been questioned in court.

The Comelec's budget proposal, submitted to the budget department last Tuesday, stipulates that P1.6 billion would go to the Automated Counting and Canvassing of Results System (Accors), and P5 billion to the National Precinct Mapping and Computerized National Registration System.

Comelec insiders, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the huge modernization budget was not tackled during budget discussions by senior staff and was merely "inserted" by the Comelec's finance department after the proposal was supposedly finalized.

While these developments were going on, one of the proponents of the VRIS, Comelec Commissioner Ralph Lantion, has reportedly regained control of the Comelec bids and awards committee.

Lantion was removed from the committee chairmanship and replaced by Comelec executive director Mamasapunod Aguam by former Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo.

The Comelec was reportedly able to save P63 million in the purchase of election paraphernalia after Lantion, who now also chairs the committee on security, was replaced last year.

But Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said that the chairmanship of all committees had been unanimously agreed by the commissioners.

Commissioner Luz Tancangco is to chair the modernization and absentee voting committees; Ressurreccion Borra, the allocation, modernization and media and information committees; Mehol Sadain, the shipping/packing committee; Rufino Javier, the printing committee; and Florentino Tuason, the reception committee.

Abalos said he would co-chair all the committees even as he makes the rounds of the Comelec offices nationwide to meet his new constituents.

He said the Comelec en banc also decided earlier this week to revive the precinct-mapping project, a brainchild of Tancangco which Benipayo had ordered discontinued for alleged funds misuse and failure to meet the target.

Abalos said the Comelec was also drafting a bill to submit to Congress calling for a general registration using a computerized system akin to the VRIS by the first quarter next year.

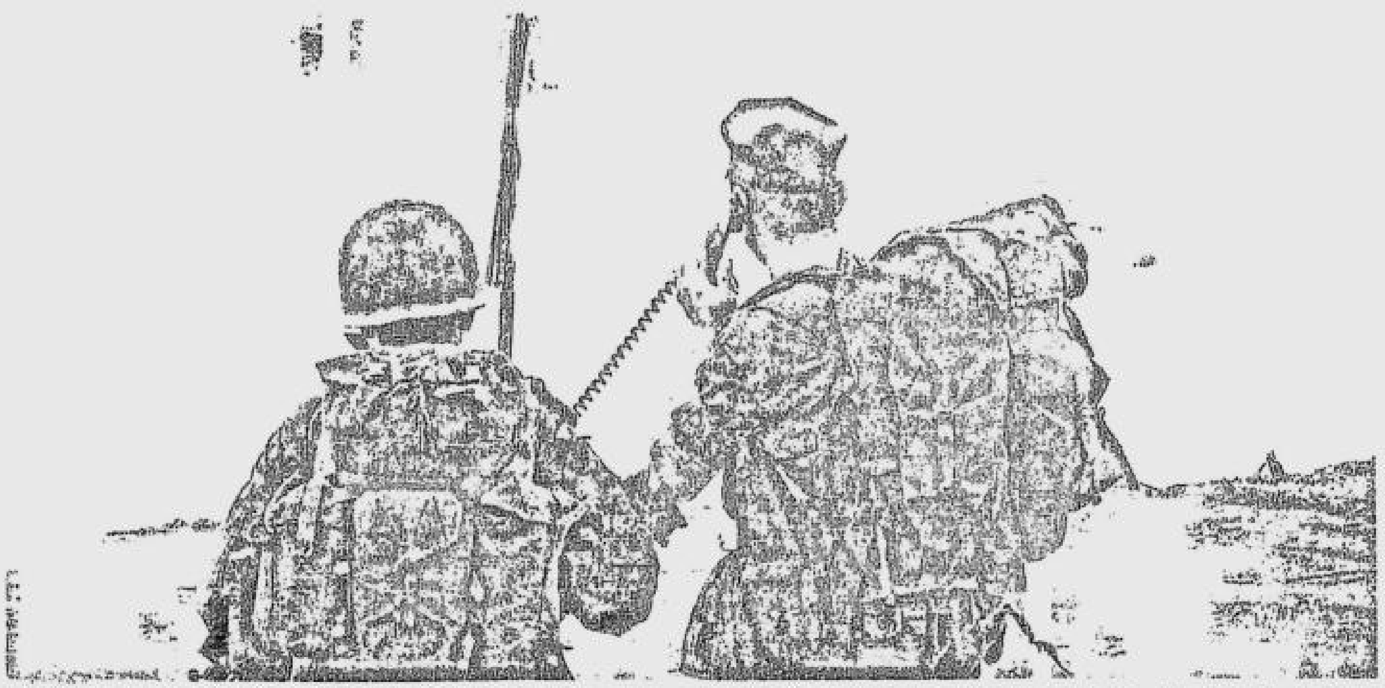
In an earlier interview, he said the national computerized registration of voters would require technology similar to the one offered by Photokina Marketing Inc., which had been awarded the VRIS project.

Benipayo went to the Supreme Court to question the award, which he said was unjustified as the poll body had no funds for the project. The case is still pending in court.

The VRIS and the Photokina project was at the center of the disagreements between Benipayo and the other commissioners which led to his replacement.

But Abalos said that he was not in favor of the VRIS either; particularly the ID component of the project which he considers unnecessary.

"You don't have to have an identification card. So I'm saying maybe we can renegotiate. We can't afford the VRIS," Abalos said.



TWO Filipino Marines give the coordinates to a US landing craft during yesterday's joint naval exercises in San Antonio, Zambales. The exercises were rained out.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Navy 'war games' rained out

By Ansbert Joaquin
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SAN ANTONIO, Zambales—Strong winds and continuous heavy rains brought by tropical storm "Kaka" forced the US Marine contingent in the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (Carat)-02 exercise to cancel yesterday's scheduled war games.

Capt. Art Alviar, spokesperson for the Philippine Navy, said their US counterpart advised them to cancel the ship-to-shore amphibious assault exercise just as it was about to start in the morning.

Instead, the US Marine Corps participants put on a hovercraft display in big waves off a Philippine Navy training base.

In "real battle situations," the weather would not be a deterrent to a marine amphibious landing, said US commanding officer Lt. Col. Richard Adams.

"But the safety of both American and Filipino troops is our primary concern in this training exercise," Adams said.

Journalists at the site did not feel covered by this concern. As they struggled to photograph Humvees (assault vehicles) being withdrawn, they allegedly overheard a US Marine saying, "Don't worry about them (reporters and photographers). They get hit if they get hit."

The 11-day war games end today. The exercise involved 2,800 participants in jungle survival, live-fire situations, reconnaissance, martial arts, rock-climbing, helicopter-borne operations, parachuting and demolition.

Meanwhile, typhoon Kaka (international name: Fung Wong), has moved farther away from the country, but western sections of the Luzon and the Visayas will continue to experience occasional monsoon rains.

The weather bureau said the rest of the country would have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Kaka was estimated at 800 kilometers southeast of Okinawa, Japan. Weather forecaster Ric Fabregas said it had merged with another typhoon, "Feng Shen," but that this was not threatening the Philippines at the moment. ***With Gerald G. Lacuarta and an AFP report***

'Plunder' judge goes to Sandigan

By Volt Contreras

THE TRIAL court judge who handed down the country's first conviction for the crime of plunder is President Macapagal-Arroyo's latest appointee to the Sandiganbayan.

Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta, formerly of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, assumed on July 3 the post vacated by retired Associate Justice Ricardo Ilarde in the anti-graft court's Third Division.

Peralta made headlines in May 2001 for sentencing to two life terms a cashier of the Bureau of Internal Revenue for economic plunder. It was the first conviction for the offense since it was established as a crime in 1991.

The case of BIR cashier Dominga Manalili is being considered a preview of deposed President Joseph Estrada's current trial, also for plunder, before a special Sandigan division.

In an interview yesterday, the new magistrate downplayed his historic Manalili decision as a possible major factor in his promotion.

"But I would consider it providential," said Peralta, 50. "On June 14 in Malacañang, I was given the 2002 Foundation for Judicial Excellence Award as one of the three Most Outstanding RTC Judges. That was around 2 p.m. Later that evening, the President signed my appointment papers."

Car repair scam: 17 face music

By B. Rivera

SEVENTEEN employees of the Department of Public Works and Highways, including division chiefs, are facing administrative charges for involvement in the P139-million vehicle repair scam.

Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong reinstated three officials earlier implicated in last year's racket. The three were directors Emily Tanquintic, Abraham Divina and Oscar Abundo of the finance, equipment and legal divisions.

DPWH directors Florendo Arias and Bert Favorito, both presidential appointees, were referred to the Ombudsman for the filing of appropriate charges.

This left only 36 employees, including the 17 charged, to the disposition of the agency. The original list submitted to Malacañang had 41 names

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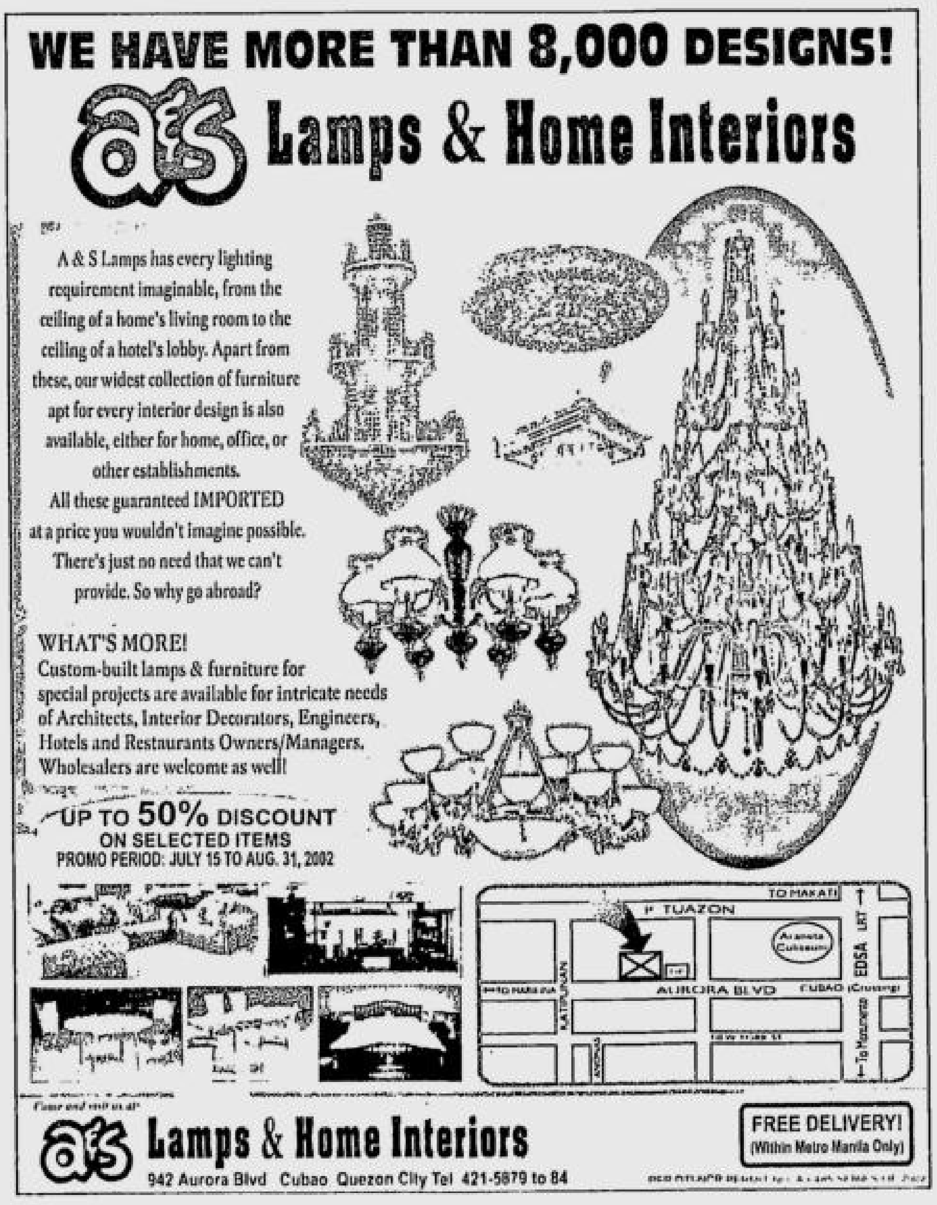

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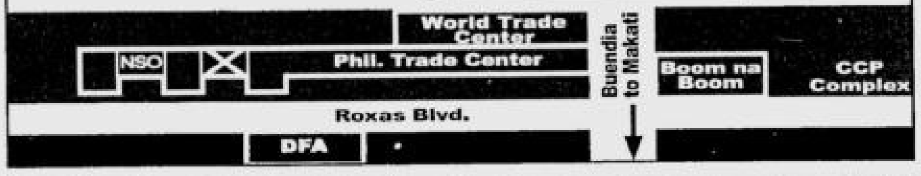

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2002

OPINION

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Founding Chairman

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One happy family

EDITORIAL

THREE weeks after taking over from Alfredo Benipayo as chair of the Commission on Elections, Benjamin Abalos declared that the bitter wrangling and division that had practically paralyzed the poll body was over. "We are now a happy family," Abalos was quoted as saying after a meeting with the six commissioners in Iloilo City last July 3. "There is no more Gang of Four, only a *barkadahan* of seven," he said in reference to the group led by Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco which had blocked every initiative of Benipayo and wanted to run the Comelec.

Now the whole nation knows what Abalos means by "a happy family." It does not only decide and work as one, it is also a well-provided one—courtesy of Filipino taxpayers, of course. Which means naturally not just a car in every garage for the chair and the commissioners, but three no less.

The purchase of vehicles was one of several decisions the commissioners made, rather sneakily, before Abalos could assume office. Just hours before Abalos' appointment was announced by Malacañang last June 10, the Gang of Four met to elect a chair and agreed to strip their incoming chief of the powers his predecessors used to exercise like the promulgation of resolutions and calling for en banc sessions. Four days later all the six commissioners arrived at the "consensus" that they and the incoming chair deserved to have new cars. They adopted a resolution authorizing the realignment of P8.5 million from the commission's "savings" for the purchase of a Nissan Cefiro Elite each for Abalos and Commissioner Florentino Tuason; four Chevrolet Ventures for Commissioners Rufino Javier, Resurreccion Borja, Mehol Sadain and Luzviminda Tancangco; and a Toyota High Ace Super Grandia for Commissioner Ralph Lantion.

Why the six commissioners couldn't wait until Abalos had taken his oath to gift themselves with new vehicles has not been explained. They had no reason to worry that Abalos would object. The former mayor of Mandaluyong and chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority saw absolutely nothing wrong with it. But he laid down the policy: Absolutely no one in the commission must have more than three—repeat three—cars.

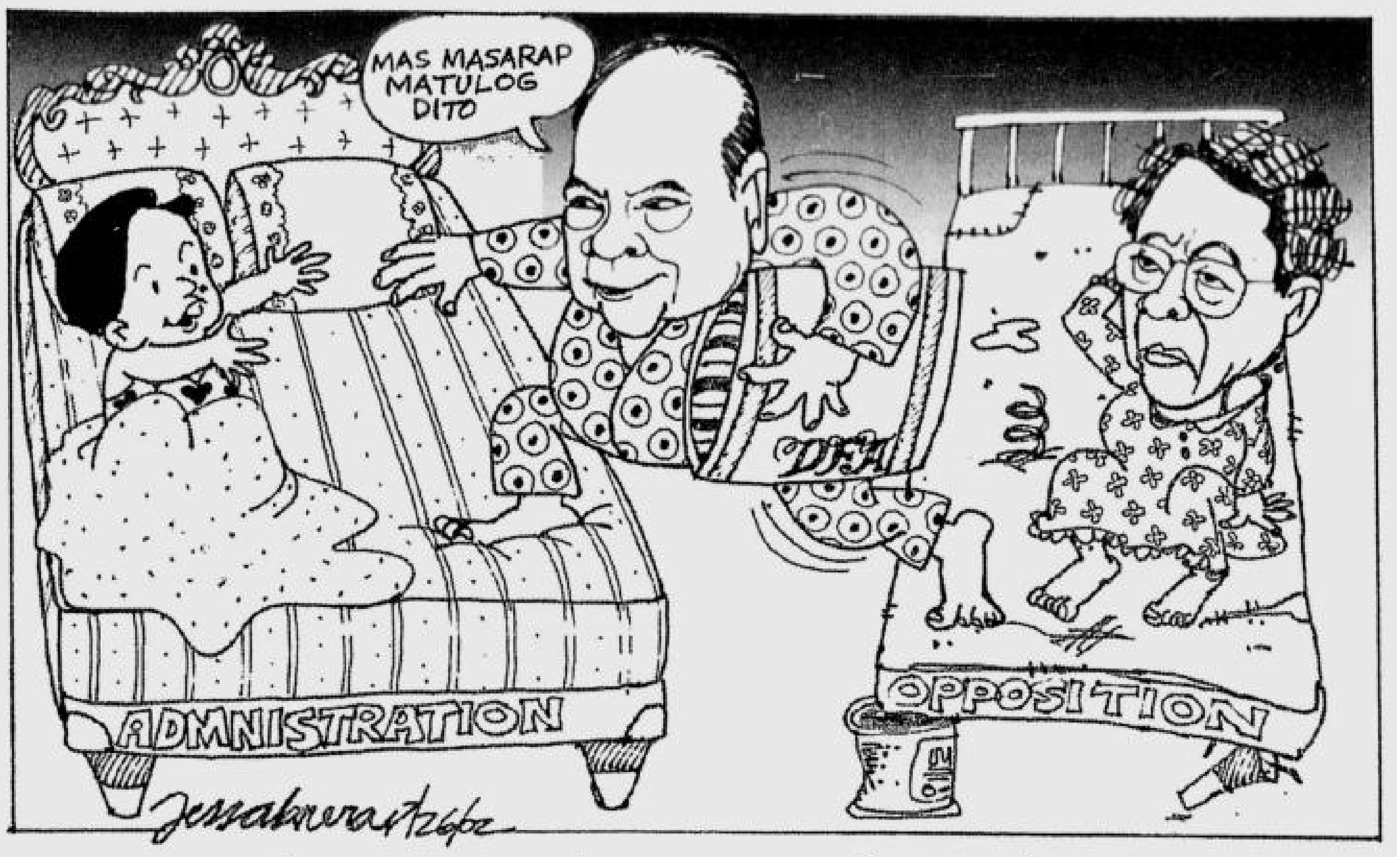
Gee, thanks for the consideration. And the information. At least we know why they had to rush the purchase of those vehicles, which cost more than P1.1 million each. The poor commissioners had only two cars each! What will their neighbors say? Okay, the wife can use the other car, but what about the kids? Surely they cannot be seen taking buses or jeepneys to school. Who cares if the law says government vehicles are "for official use only"?

Now everyone in the "happy family" that is the Comelec can really have fun. That Grandia and those Ventures are not really made for going to office. They are ideal for out-of-town trips and picnics. Which is probably the idea. Will the Commission on Audit please check on how those vehicles and the others assigned to Abalos and his commissioners are being used?

Even congressmen, who are not famous for using public funds wisely, are shocked by the Comelec's extravagance. "It is gross insensitivity when officials splurge on new vehicles even as the government is incurring a huge budget deficit," said Camarines Sure Rep. Rolando Andaya, chair of the committe on appropriations.

But apparently Abalos and the commissioners have never heard that during the first half of the year the government had already run up a P119.7-billion deficit. That was only P10.3 billion short of the target for the whole year. So they have to be reminded very clearly.

Andaya and his colleagues in Congress will have at least two opportunities to do so. First, when Abalos, Borra and Tuason go to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation, and then when they present their proposed budget to Congress. In both instances, the lawmakers can ask the Comelec officials to explain their free-spending ways at a time when the government is in dire financial straits. Better yet, Andaya and his committee should cut the Comelec budget to the bone and demand that every expenditure be itemized so that there will be little room for these officials to exercise discretion (which they obviously lack) over the use of funds. There is something terribly wrong with the budget process when officials can identify "savings" in the middle of the year and spend the money as they wish.



They shoot deserters, don't they?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

NOW, there are two deserters from the Senate opposition: Senators Robert Jaworski and Blas F. Ople. Another "weak link" is Sen. Vicente Sotto III.

Desertion is a serious crime. If a husband deserts his wife and family, he can be imprisoned for a long time. If a soldier deserts during a war, he is shot by firing squad. Desertion is tantamount to committing treason. And it proves that the soldier is a coward. He doesn't want to fight the enemy.

I'm not proposing that the deserters should be shot. But shouldn't desertion and sleeping with the enemy be discouraged? How do you do that but by punishing the deserters. After the Pacific War, Filipinos who collaborated with the Japanese invaders were tried in People's Courts and imprisoned. They were also shunned by their countrymen.

We cannot now try the deserters. But maybe we should do the second option.

* * *

According to talk, Jaworski and Ople have always been the "weakest links" in the Senate opposition, because they have one thing in common: both are neck-deep in debt. If rumors are true (and I am not saying they are) Jawo's shipping/cargo company owes some P400 million from the Philippine National Bank and other financial institutions which the company has a hard time paying. Ople is supposed to also have a multi-million mortgage on his residence in a first-class subdivision. These rumors may be false and the only way to disprove them is to be transparent, as Jawo claims he has always been on his loans. The two should come out on the status of their respective loans. They are public records and easy to secure from the financial institutions, but before anybody beats them to releasing them, the two principals should bare all themselves.

Keeping quiet won't stop the bad talk. On the contrary, it will fuel speculations and more false rumors. The best way is to come clean.

* * *

President Macapagal-Arroyo has warned multinational drug companies for allegedly violating fair trade practices in an effort to block the sale of cheap government-imported medicine in the country.

The multinationals have been accused of pressuring local distributors not to sell the cheaper medicine which compete with their own products. The President has ordered Trade Secretary Mar Roxas "to study if what (the multinationals are doing) is against (our laws) on monopolies and fair trade practices."

There is a monopoly, or oligopoly, in the local pharmaceutical industry. One or two huge multinationals manufacture and package different brands of medicine owned by different foreign-owned drug companies. One huge drugstore chain (Mercury Drug) distributes them all over the country. Mercury has effectively killed most of the small *boticas* we used to have. Anybody with a common sense can see that.

But Roxas is the same trade secretary who cannot see any monopoly or oligopoly in the cement industry or in the petroleum industry. So how can he see any oligopoly in the pharmaceutical industry?

Roxas' solution to the high cost of medicine is the importation by the government of cheap medicine from India. This parallel importation he called Pharma 50: it is supposed to lower prices of pharmaceuticals by at least 50 percent. But it is really nothing but just Porma 50, a political gimmick to assuage a restless and sick citizenry. It is mere palliative and not a permanent solution.

In the first place, to be successful, Porma 50 should be able to reach out to the majority of Filipinos. The current P75 million drug importation accounts for a measly 0.16 percent of the total medicines imported in 1999. Porma 50 has reached a very small percentage of Filipinos. Even in government hospitals, sale and distribution is severely rationed: 4 to 8 pieces for the prescribed 14 full course of antibiotics. To have an impact, parallel drug importation should be increased to P5 billion. Can the government afford that?

For a permanent solution, we should have a Filipino pharmaceutical industry that is not dominated by multinationals. We have many small pharmaceutical companies but they are ants compared to the multinationals which are like elephants. These Filipino companies can manufacture the same medicine being imported from India—at a lower price. For example, the India-imported Bactrim (generic name: co-trimoxazole) for bronchitis/pneumonia or UTI, was advertised by the Department of Health at P5.10 but a local drug company sells the generic co-trimaxazole at only P5 per.

Medicines sold here are priced at 40 to 60 percent more than in other Asian countries. How can they—India for example—produce cheaper drugs? It doesn't pay royalty to the original developers of the drugs. We can produce even cheaper drugs if we do the same thing.

But we can't because we are a signatory to that agreement. But according to the Health Alliance for Democracy, we can produce cheaper medicines if we import the raw materials from India. They propose that instead of parallel importation of finished medicine from India, we should import the raw materials and let the local drug manufacturers produce them. Instead of making the Indian manufacturers richer, we can develop our indigenous pharmaceutical industry.

Makes plenty of sense to me. But does it to our leaders?

All in the family

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

RAMON Revilla and Robert Jaworski, senators both, have an explanation for why Jaworski bolted the "opposition" and joined the pro-administration group in the Senate.

Revilla says he was the one who got Jaworski to do it. He is Jaworski's father-in-law and has been the beneficiary of his continuing beneficence. Jaworski it was who helped facilitate his last couple of operations at the Stanford University Medical Center. He decided to impose on his generosity one more time. "I asked him to consider moving to the administration to resolve what was happening to our Senate."

Who knows? Maybe someone told him about the Arab saying, "You have saved my life, now you are responsible for it."

Jaworski himself explains it thus: He had been agonizing over his dilemma since he arrived from abroad last Saturday. His father-in-law helped him solve it by telling him that national affairs might prove "uncontrollable" if the impasse at the Senate were not broken. "I feel that if the 12-12 situation in the Senate continues, it would rub off on the other institutions in this country. I believe something has to be done to get the Senate moving."

Manuel Villar hails Jaworski's decision as a boon for the country. "It was a good gesture. It was something that helped break the impasse." Other sectors have hailed it too as a triumph for the administration, possibly, as some commentators have said, President Macapagal-Arroyo's most brilliant coup yet. Finally, the nation could move forward.

There and then, you see what's wrong with this country.

In all this, nothing has been said about whether or not Jaworski now believes in the administration's cause. Nothing has been said about whether or not he has been struck like St. Paul on the way to Tarsus with the bolt of enlightenment to make him suffer a change of heart, or mind. Nothing has been said about whether or not he has discovered while wrestling with his conscience on his flight home that the things the "opposition" stands for, not least of them loyalty to a once-and-future con, suck.

Indeed, no one has thought to raise the issue at all. The equation, as far as everyone is concerned, is simply whether Jaworski's "moral obligations" to his father-in-law, or to his immediate family in general, outweigh his "moral obligations" to his political compadres, or his broader, more extended, family in general. Most of the public will think that is so, blood is thicker than water, or what passes for water in the political cabal, or coterie, known as the "opposition."

"*Kaya naman pala*," people (and not just Ginebra fans) now say knowingly, and not unsympathetically, Jawo had no choice. He couldn't very well say no to his father-in-law. Now if he can only appease his former allies—which shouldn't be hard to do because they themselves would have done the same thing in his shoes—he should be all right.

No one has bothered to ask whether the "moral obligations" of a senator, or any public official, elected or unelected, for that matter, to his family outweigh his moral obligations to the nation. That question has no meaning in this equation. We simply assume that familial obligations are paramount. That parents, by affinity or consanguinity, have a natural right to ask their sons and daughters in government to do as they bid, and not as their positions demand, and that their sons and daughters have a natural duty to comply. That is a recipe for national suicide. Which is probably why we're already dead, except that, as the boy in "Sixth Sense" said, we don't know it yet.

The seeming good to the nation by the breaking of the Senate impasse is spurious. In fact, it merely extends the logic of the family. Why does a 12-12 situation in the Senate pose a monumental crisis? Why is there a 12-12 deadlock to begin with? Nobody has thought to ask those questions. We take it to be the most natural thing for senators to be compelled to vote on a bill on the basis not of whether they think it will do good to the nation or not but of whether it will do good to their political coalition or not. Or more to the point, whether it will do good to them or not, voting on party lines being calculated to advance individual career.

In fact, all there is to the "opposition"—which is the reason I put it in quotation marks—is that it is opposed to not being in power. It opposes everything the administration does not because it doesn't believe in it but because it believes only in itself, or in its right to seize power. The same is true with the administration coalition. It opposes everything the "opposition" does not because it doesn't believe in it but because it believes only in itself, or its right to keep power.

We may of course expect politicians to act this way. But why in God's name do we, the voters, have to agree with this? Why in God's name do we, the citizens, have to resign ourselves to this? Why don't we fulminate at the stupidity of a 12-12 impasse, seeing in it only an artificial crisis created by cretins who do not want to use their God-given brains and God-given hearts to vote as their conscience bids but only as their party bosses order? Why don't we rail at the idiocy of a Senate stalemate, caused by the highest officials of the land using their people-given power not to protect the nation from all that is dark and iniquitous but merely to protect their crack at winning or keeping power? Why don't we damn the iniquity of having our laws made not by women and men guided by principle and fortified by courage but by lemmings who would throw themselves off a cliff simply because the other lemmings are doing it?

There and then, you see what's wrong with this country. We've always been all for the family, we've never been all for the nation.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Macapagal's new cronyism

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

WHOEVER believed President Macapagal-Arroyo's disclaimer that she did not intervene in the effort to break the 12-12 Senate stalemate is absolutely naïve.

Now, after the defection of Sen. Robert Jaworski to the administration coalition in the Senate, the President admits that she had a hand in applying hidden "persuaders" on Jaworski and Sen. Blas Ople to switch to the administration .

It was clear from the start that when the President's publicist Dante Ang and Rep. Willie Villarama of Bulacan went to Los Angeles, after the resignation of Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. from the Cabinet, to talk with Ople, they were acting as negotiators on behalf of the President.

Now that Jaworski and Ople had crossed over to the government, Ang is gloating and is leaving the impression he is responsible for the switch. Ang has always flaunted his self-claimed influence on the President, but the truth is that there was a division of labor in the effort to win over at least two to three opposition senators to the government's side.

Ang and Villarama, because of past association with Ople, worked on Ople acting on behalf of the President as special emissaries. The task of getting Jaworski to switch fell on Senate president Franklin Drilon. The factor mainly responsible for Jaworski's defection was family pressure. His father-in-law, Sen. Ramon Revilla, argued with Jaworski on two points: first, the Senate impasse had created a cleavage inside the family; and, secondly, he worked on Jaworski's anxieties that with a fresh career in the Senate, he had been on the wrong side during the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada.

The case of Jaworski's loans came up during the trial and was brought to the attention of Estrada. It came up again during the Senate impasse. It was not the decisive factor in Jaworski's vote for the suppression of Envelope No. 2 in the trial. Neither was it decisive in the switch of Jaworski in the Senate impasse. Former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu, who broke away from Estrada after he was scandalized by his corruption and who testified against him in the impeachment trial, also worked on Jaworski. Revilla is the uncle of Espiritu, who has become a financial adviser to President Macapagal.

The Espiritu-Revilla clan wants to stop being fractured by political divisions, and be on the right side this time. Intra-family kinship ties exerted a strong influence on Jaworski's decision. Drilon worked on these ties. Jaworski's switch was Drilon's coup, not Ang's, even if the latter would like people to believe he was instrumental in it, as well as in Ople's defection, in order to enhance his influence with the President.

The President, like Estrada, has her own cronies who have no public accountability. If Estrada made decisions on the basis of informal advice or importuning from his Filipino-Chinese cronies who were making deals behind official processes, President Macapagal has her own brand of cronyism through which political decisions are being made outside the ambit of the Cabinet. Although Ang has been appointed as an adviser to the President, he has no public accountability.

One of the aspects of the Macapagal presidency that has escaped close public scrutiny is her decision-making process in domestic political affairs, such as in making new alliances. In this process, the institutional party apparatus has been ignored. The recruitment of Ronaldo Puno to join the government as an intelligence consultant to help the campaign against drug trafficking, and Jimmy Policarpio, both senior functionaries of the Estrada regime, was made by Mike Arroyo, the President's husband. Mike Arroyo acts on his own, without synchronization with the President.

Mike Arroyo is not a government official. He is merely the presidential escort. Puno and Policarpio are Mike Arroyo's golf cronies. Their recruitment was not made through the President's screening committee which scrutinizes appointments for senior positions, including for Cabinet posts.

Mike Arroyo is getting to be too meddlesome in government affairs. He is not content with just being an official escort to the President. Like Ang, Mike Arroyo likes to throw his weight around. They are not inserting themselves in the official process of the bureaucracy. They work outside these official channels and beyond oversight scrutiny.

When President Macapagal says she is building a "strong republic," by restoring the role of strong institutions, her cronyism with her extra-official meddlers and advisers undermines the institutions from which orderly government proceeds. Cronyism is the anti-thesis of institution-building.

The President has tried to consolidated her control of Lakas-NUCD by assuming the post of co-chair of the party, together with Speaker Jose de Venecia. But she has also planted the explosive that would destroy the party by, first, bringing into her new coalition turncoats from the Estrada regime, and, secondly, expelling from her Cabinet her former allies in the campaign to oust Estrada. The new recruits are not being integrated into the party structure, and yet, in the building of a "strong republic," parties are important institutions for political action.

It is in the new coalition-building where the President is scuttling her own project of building a "strong republic."

Pluses and pitfalls of democracy

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE UNITED Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has done us the great honor by holding the global launching of this year's Human Development Report in Malacañang.

The choice of the site is "deeply symbolic," officials said, for the theme for this year's HDR is "Deepening democracy in a fragmented world."

And the Philippines, which has gone through two—all right, maybe three—"People Power" uprisings, is "one of the foremost countries where the people…are really committed to democracy."

Sakiko Fukuda Parr, chief author of the Report, praised Filipinos for our "commitment to democracy." And yet, perhaps inadvertently, in choosing to launch the report in Manila, the UNDP also illustrated the flipside of "democracy," when political systems and democratic reforms fail to deliver even the most basic services or eradicate poverty. With 40 percent of all Filipinos living below the poverty line, it's only understandable why a new survey should indicate that even Filipinos are losing their faith in democracy.

Fukuda-Parr acknowledges this link—or lack of it—that common folk find between democracy and a better life. "Around the world, there is a growing sense that democracy has not delivered development such as more jobs, schools, health care for ordinary people," she said.

And yet, there's no data supporting the notion that "strongman" rule is any more efficient in delivering development. "Politicians often use (the failure of democracy) to justify authoritarianism and curtailment of human rights," observes Fukuda-Parr. "But history and academic research provide no evidence that authoritarian regimes are better at promoting economic and social progress."

* * *

MARK Malloch Brown, UNDP administrator who was right at the center of immediate post-Edsa Philippine politics as a communications consultant to President Cory Aquino, says it's time world leaders focused on the need to "deepen" democracy. "Deepening democracy," as the UNDP defines it, involves "giving ordinary people a greater say in both national and global policy making."

"Development policies since the early 1980s have focused largely on economics and markets," notes Brown. "Those things are important. But the big lesson of this period is never ignore the critical role of politics in allowing people to shape their own lives. Political development is the forgotten dimension of human development."

Each year, the HDR also ranks countries in the world according to how well or badly they do in achieving markers for human development—such as life expectancy, adult literacy, GDP per capita. This is known as the Human Development Index (HDI). At the same time, countries are also ranked according to specific markers linked to the theme of each year's report. This year, for instance, countries are ranked according to specific indicators of democratic governance, including a parliament whose members are elected directly by the people, check and balance among various sectors, fair and equitable distribution of income, and a free media.

So, how did the Philippines fare in this year's ranking? The Philippines ranked 77th in the 2002 HDI, achieving the same HDI as Thailand with less than two-thirds the income. Compared with other countries in the region, even taking into account indicators of democratic governance, the Philippines ranks lower than Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, though it does consistently better than Indonesia.

* * *

WHY the focus on democracy when the majority of the world's countries—140 out of nearly 200 countries—hold multiparty elections and have established most formal institutions of democracy?

Because, said Fukuda-Parr during a technical briefing for the media, "democracies all over the world are in trouble." While some democratic states (such as Pakistan) reverted to authoritarian rule, "many others have stalled between democracy and authoritarianism, with limited political freedoms and closed or dysfunctional politics."

But even in fully functioning democracies, says the Report, "citizens often feel powerless to influence national policies. They and their governments also feel more subject to international forces that they have little capacity to control. An international survey involving more than 50,000 people in 60 countries asked them if their country was governed by the will of the people. Only one in 10 said their government responded to the people's will.

* * *

HOW do the Report's authors propose to "deepen" democracy around the world? There's need, they said, to focus "not only on strengthening democratic institutions, such as free and fair elections and a representative legislature, but also broad-based political parties, a judiciary that is independent, media that are ethical and professional and free of both state and corporate control, and a vibrant civil society."

On the international level, the Report calls for deepening democratic practices in international institutions (such as the WB-IMF, the World Trade Organization and even the United Nations) where power is concentrated in the hands of the wealthier countries. "Global pluralism has not accompanied global economic integration," observed Fukuda-Parr.

The "central message" of this year's Report, said Malloch Brown, is that "effective governance is central to human development, and lasting solutions need to go beyond such narrow issues (as economic development and administrative efficiency) and be firmly grounded in democratic politics in the broadest sense."

Strange pseudonyms

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

YEARS ago I wrote about pseudonyms used by our heroes hoping someone would pick up where I left off and analyze the names used. Surely, there is much to be learned by a closer look at the names and personalities involved. Jose Rizal used "Dimasalang" (Untouchable) or "Laong Laan" (Ever-prepared). Andres Bonifacio was "Maypagasa" (Hopeful). Antonio Luna was "Taga-ilog" because he was Ilocano but born in Binondo, literally, by the Pasig River. Apolinario Mabini was "Paralitico." Gregoria de Jesus was "Lakambini." These names were not chosen at whim, there must be some deeper personal significance here. What about people who used feminine names? Marcelo H. del Pilar was "Dolores Manapat" and Emilio Aguinaldo was "Rosalia Magdalo." I wonder how scholars into gender will interpret this.

I was quite disappointed to find out that detailed instructions on guerrila warfare written by a certain Paula Pardo to Señora Ambrosia on March 2, 1900 were by men. I am always on the prowl for that rare feminine voice in the Philippine revolutionary papers and Paula was just transmitting orders of "Sra. Rosalia" a.k.a. Emilio Aguinaldo on guerrilla warfare against the Americans in Leyte and Samar. Part of the letter reads:

"It is agreed to adopt guerrilla tactics in this province, by bands or sections of 10, 15 or 20 soldiers, or according to the number of available troops, under the command of an officer, whose duty it will be to make hostile demonstrations continually against the enemy, wherever they may be. For this purpose it would be well to select among the troops good sharpshooters to form the guerrilla bands, instructing them not to fire their pieces until within a distance of 50 or 40 meters. This will prevent the men from missing the enemy and will prevent the waste of ammunition. The scarcity of ammunition and the danger we run in obtaining it, must be constantly borne in mind, and hence our soldiers may see to it that their fire should cause many casualties among the enemy.

"The guerrillas must always stand in a fight, and must not lie down, nor kneel on the ground according to Spanish tactics, as the Americans aim very low, and when kneeling the bullets strike some in the head, others in the chest or stomach, and also when lying down they are shot in the head, while when our men stand they are not struck except in the feet, calf, or leg. These wounds are not mortal, or such as to cause death."

The above stresses what I have been saying for years, our history books tell us the outcomes of historic battles but seldom detail how the war was actually fought. This letter even says:

"If any of our men are wounded on the field or elsewhere, efforts must be made to take away the rifles and ammunition at once and carry them away as far as possible, so that they may not be captured by the enemy; and if the wounded cannot be immediately removed elsewhere or retreat from the place, let them be left there, because it is better to save the arms than the men, as there are many Filipinos to fill up the ranks, but rifles are scarce and difficult to secure for battle; and besides the Americans, coming upon any wounded, take good care of them, while the rifles are destroyed; therefore, I repeat, they must endeavor to save the arms rather then the men."

The above sounds so heartless, especially when the enemy was ordered to take no prisoners. Imagine leaving the wounded and running off with their guns and ammunition? To facilitate ambush, assassination, or simple *agaw-armas* intelligence data were gathered and sent through a web of links between guerrilla headquarters and informers in the towns. It was even recommended that:

"They must select trustworthy women to carry correspondence, charging them to hide the letters underneath their skirts, bearing in mind that the Americans do not search them; and in sending to the towns for arms or food, the orders must be sent by women and for small quantities, so as not to attract attention…."

Guerrilla bands in Manila and Cebu resorted to "El Gapang" where guerrillas crept up on the unsuspecting enemy and killed them as they went about personal necessities unarmed. I presume the earliest "Bawal Umihi Dito" signs were posted during the Filipino-American War for the protection of the enemy. Aside from this, quack doctors and *herbolarios* were sought for advice on poisons to be mixed with the liquor of the enemy. It is significant that the aim was not instant death. Rather the poison would be administered in small doses, "to undermine the constitution of the man, until some day death occurs." This way many could be poisoned without arousing suspicion. An unnamed poison was highly recommended:

"There is a tree here in the province whose leaves inflame the body of a man considerably, once applied; for I have seen about Manila the leaves converted into powder, rolled in pellets of paper and shot in the faces of Americans. This causes the parts to swell and become completely useless; and I believe it would be well to do this to them within the towns, and especially to the drunkards asleep along the roads and to the fellows making love."

If this kind of warfare was implemented earlier, would the Filipino-American War have ended differently?

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Grandsons

HIGH BLOOD

Jokee Botor-Reyes

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

I NOW have three grandsons and enjoying every minute with them. I could not ask for more. God has been very good to me to have given me three healthy, happy but most of all, very good-looking boys.

Y is now 6 and Z is 5 and they are the children of my only son, Yoks. Last May 15, my only daughter, Ninj gave birth prematurely to Awit, another boy.

I have been asked why my first two grandsons are named Y and Z. Well, that's a guarantee that they would not have difficulty writing their first names. Fact is, at age 1, they could write their first names already. Besides, I told Karen, my daughter-in-law, she cannot have another child anymore (we both believe in family planning, the natural rhythm way) because there is no more letter of the alphabet after Z unless we go back to A but then there might be a B, C, D, etc.

Even before my third grandson was born, Awit would be his name regardless of sex. His father is a rock star, Dong Abay, the lead vocalist of the now disbanded Yano (readers might be familiar with his top hits: "Santong Kabayo, Banal na Aso," "Tsinelas" and "Trapo" which gave that album its platinum award).

Because Y and Z are much older than Awit, they were very enthusiastic when they saw their Tita Ninj's tummy getting bigger. Well, after an explanation, they started to look forward to Awit's arrival. Since they are both boys they really wanted a cousin who should be a boy just like them. One day, they asked me: "Lola, *si* Awit *ba* boy?" and I said yes because the ultrasound revealed his male sex and they said: "Okay *po, dahil kung babae bubugbugin namin. Gusto kasi naming kalaro* boy."

The joy of being a grandmother is beyond description. The older boys' *kakulitan* is sometimes enough to drive me mad but I can tolerate it with enjoyment. Since they are both boys, they would quarrel endlessly over just anything from toys to books, fight, run after each other, shout at the top of their lungs, break their Lola's favorite vases, wake Lola and Lolo up during naps, ask questions endlessly, climb windows and do unthinkable and dangerous things. This is where I really keep eyes on them.

Y and Z started tinkering with the computer when they were 3 and 2 years old and they were addicted to Crayola Art. I also used the same machine to teach them how to read the alphabet and now as Kinder and Prep pupils respectively, they use the computer the way I am using it now. They now also use the cell phone to play their favorite "Snake" game. It was even Y who taught me how to text and he reminds me to charge or tells me I have no more load. Z who is a voracious eater, tells me it is time for *merienda*, including taking my regular vitamins.

Since Awit is just days old, I don't have much stories about him. But like his father, he is going to be a singer and lives up to his name, judging from the we way he cries. In fact, he has already sung his first original composition unbelievably or believably. Normally, babies cry and sound *"uha, uha, uha."* But Awit cried *"ara, ara, ara."* His Tatay said that is original and it stands for his name, Awit Reyes Abay, (Ara for short).

Just seeing my grandsons grow healthy every day could give any grandmother the biggest joy of her life.

Jokee Botor-Reyes is a little over 60 and still writes for an Internet magazine and teaches Humanities and Public Relations in college.

Less massive attack on Iraq seen

NEWS ANALYSIS

Peter Graff

LONDON—Instead of a massive Gulf War-style ground invasion of Iraq, US generals may be plotting a smaller-scale operation to cut off Bagdhad from the outside world, military experts say.

But that could mean leaving Saddam Hussein in place, at least for the short term, despite Washington's desire for a "regime change." "We're getting reasonable signs on both sides of the Atlantic that something is afoot and something is moving," Maj. Charles Heyman, editor of defense journal Jane's World Armies, told Reuters in London. "But it's not the 250,000-man assault that we have been led to think," he said. "I am still not seeing the signs that I should have seen right now for a very large scale deployment." Heyman predicted far smaller numbers of US and British-led troops would mount an operation to shut down all Iraqi airfields, ports and road links with the outside world.

Their goal would be to force Iraqi leaders to allow UN weapons inspectors to return to the country—not necessarily to topple its government.

"Obviously the ultimate aim would be regime change, but the immediate aim would be to ensure that whoever is in Baghdad, they do not have access to weapons of mass destruction," Heyman said. "It would certainly not mean a march on Baghdad that would throw out Saddam." Since President George W. Bush declared in a speech that Iraq was part of an "axis of evil", speculation has swirled over whether he planned to finish where his father left off at the end of the Gulf War, and remove the Iraqi leader from power.

But although US officials have put themselves under strong political pressure to take military action against Iraq, their plans may fall short of ousting Saddam, at least for now.

If the US goal was to topple Iraq's government at any cost, regional experts say the only certain way to succeed would be to mount another full-blown invasion that repeated the Gulf War dictum of bringing to bear "overwhelming force." "There's no way on earth that aerial power alone or special forces is going to unseat that regime," said Toby Dodge, Iraq specialist at the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Military planners have flirted with the possibility of repeating the US success in Afghanistan, where special forces and air power helped a local opposition oust the ruling Taliban.

But that strategy does not seem applicable to Iraq, where Kurdish and Shi'ite opposition groups have not fielded the sort of credible, unified force that Afghanistan's Northern Alliance had deployed a short distance from Kabul.

"There was a lot of speculation early this year about using the Iraqi opposition something like the way they used the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan," said Daniel Neep, Middle East expert at the Royal United Services Institute, a think tank specializing in military affairs.

"This has become more problematic over the last few months as people have realized that the Iraqi opposition is maybe a bit less united, and less easy to manipulate perhaps than the Northern Alliance." But if the only surefire option to topple Saddam is a full-blown invasion, this would require the support of neighboring Arab countries whose territory would be used as a launching point.

US diplomats should have been hard at work already winning pledges to host their troops. On the 1991 model, troops would deploy through the autumn for an attack in late winter.

"They haven't done the diplomatic work," said Dodge.

Israeli-Palestinian violence has upstaged concern over Iraq, making it more difficult for Washington to win support from Arab allies leery of Saddam.

Reuters

Blind to the burdens of students

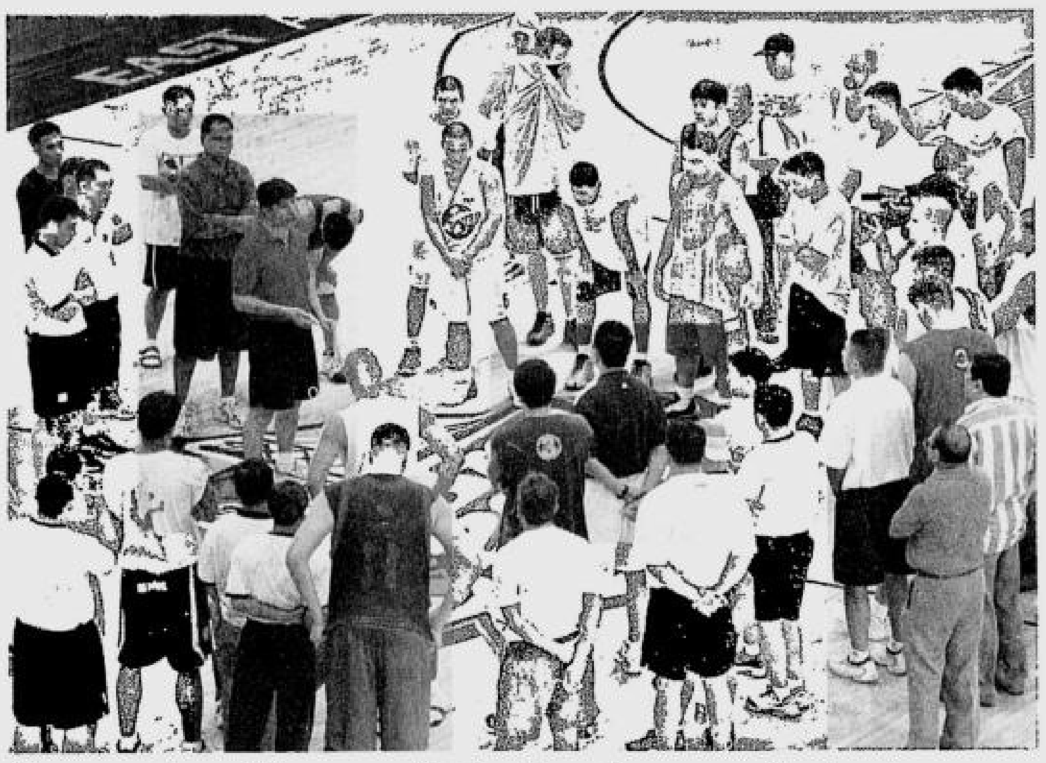
THE CONSTITUTION recognizes the individual's universal right to an education and places on the government the responsibility to send all young people to school and make education accessible to everyone. But the Macapagal administration seems to have turned a blind eye to this mandate to provide this basic social service to the Filipino people.

Recently, seven college freshmen with visual impediments were denied admission to the Polytechnic University of the Philippines because of the nonavailability of equipment for the use of blind students. The P498-million budget for the 52,000 students of PUP is evidently insufficient to meet the needs of regular students.

The treatment given to the seven blind students reflects the insensitivity of the President, whose priority is the uplift of the military morale at the expense of students who must bear yearly tuition increases and the regular reduction of PUP's budget.

Our "visually unimpaired" President should take a closer look at the sorry state of the Filipino youth, unless she wants to suffer the fate of other insensitive presidents who were driven out of Malacañang.

—GLYZIEL GOTIANGCO, executive vice president, National Union of Students of the Philippines, 812-A Basilio St., Sampaloc, Manila



For a national team with better chances of winning

I PLAYED soccer in the school intramurals when I was a freshman in college. It was the only time I played football in my entire life. I wasn't too interested in football and never watched a football game on TV for I found it too boring. Several decades ago I stayed in a hotel where the great Brazilian football player Pelé was also staying and I saw him a few times in the lobby but it was no big deal.

However, a decade or so ago I happened to watch on our local TV, reruns of several World Cup Championship games featuring Pelé and the great Brazilian teams he played in. I was transfixed by the way the Brazilians passed the ball around and their ball control and teamwork were pure poetry in motion. The other teams were no match for the Brazilians. In one of the championships they played against Italy, the Italians were so frustrated by the way Pelé and the rest of the Brazilians were running rings around them that they proceeded to tackle Pelé instead of running after the ball. I still find football boring except when the Brazilians are playing. I found them so fascinating that I would remain awake up to the wee hours of the morning just to watch the Brazilians and its so called "Samba" football team.

Football has truly become international. The English invented football (soccer), yet the English had a Swedish coach, Per Erricsson, in the just concluded World Cup. The South Koreans who reached the semifinals, have deified their Dutch coach Hiddnick. They even want to elect him president of Korea.

Perhaps our local basketball coaches should learn from this for they protested the selection of Ron Jacobs as the coach of the national team for the coming Asian Games. This is the height of arrogance and ignorance for we are not the repository of knowledge when it comes to basketball. The fact of the matter is that we have fallen behind many Asian teams in basketball and tactics. Now that Jacobs has been felled by a stroke, perhaps we should get Bill Bayno who should be a consultant to our national team. Our team also needs more height as has been shown when they played Italy and Latvia in Europe (these two European teams dominated the rebounds and scored at will under the goal with our shorter players just watching helplessly).

There have been comments that basketball is not the game for Filipinos for we are much shorter than the Americans and Europeans. However, during the last decade or so ago, the Filipinos have grown taller. In the UAAP basketball tournament, almost all the teams have 6'6" and 6'7" players, the Far Eastern University even has a 6'9" player. Going back to the national team, if EJ Feihl and Marlou Aquino are included in the team, plus the Filipino-Americans, this would be a pretty tall team. We can even match the height ceilings of most of the tall European teams.

—RICO XERES, Eisenhower Street, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila

A cure for what ails RP education

IN A FEATURE article in the Sunday Inquirer Magazine, titled "Saving the system," the ills that caused the deterioration of the Philippine educational system were cogently discussed. A number of solutions to save the system were also presented so that the senators and the congressmen can conduct a study in aid of legislation since more than half a century of wasteful spending of pork barrel funds has continued unabated.

The new Basic Education Curriculum of Education Secretary Raul S. Roco is a shot in the arm of our educational system. And as it is being implemented by the Department of Education at the opening of school year 2001-2002, a howl of protests from the teachers nationwide is a manifestation of doubts about its efficacy since these teachers have become used to the old curriculum that produced graduates who could hardly speak correct English.

It is surprising that teachers are antagonistic to change when teaching as a profession is a catalyst for change. And the new curriculum is the best cure for the ailing educational system that has transformed the youth into a bunch of speakers and writers of mangled English when Filipinos were once regarded worldwide as the only fluent English-speaking people in Asia.

Let us support Roco's new basic education curriculum to save the Philippine educational system from further deterioration, and see for ourselves the results after a decade of implementation.

—GODOFREDO O. PETEZA SR., J.P. Rizal Street, Barangay Camambugan, Daet, Camarines Sur

Real state of CBK plant and capacity

IN CONRADO Banal's column of July 16 regarding Impsa (which should properly be referred to as the CBK Power Company Limited), he erroneously claims that we are charging fees for work that has not been done and that the power plants have deteriorated. Since most of his figures are incorrect, we would appreciate the opportunity of setting the record straight.

Banal states that we are being paid in advance for work not done and that little or no work has been done. To date, CBK, which is a partnership between Edison Mission Energy of the United States and Impsa of Argentina, has invested over $300 million in this project. Two units of the Kalayaan Pumped Storage Plant have been rehabilitated and are fully in service.

Furthermore, the July 16 column goes through a series of statistics indicating that the plant is worse off now than it was before. We do not know the source of these statistics. For example, Banal states that the capacity of the plant was 281 megawatts before the rehabilitation but only 188 MW afterwards. In reality, the two rehabilitated units of the Kalayaan Pumped Storage Plant now have a combined capacity of 363 MW with over 98 percent availability. These units originally provided less than 300 MW of unreliable power. This represents an increase in capacity of 20 percent and a significant improvement in availability.

We would like to invite Banal or any representative of your newspaper to get in touch with us so we may further clarify any questions you may have.

—GERALD L. KATZ, chief executive officer, CBK Power Company Limited, 29/F LKG Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City

A hymn for the Aglipayan Church

LETTERS about the Aglipayan Church have already been published in the INQUIRER's Opinion section. This is understandable in view of the coming centennial of the founding of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente to be commemorated on Aug. 2 to 3 this year.

In response to these letters, I have produced the lyrics of a song similar to the hymn composed and written by Sabine Baring Gould and Arthur Sullivan. The hymn is "Onward, Christian soldiers," and so the title of the song I have produced is "Fight, Aglipayanos." Just as Jose Rizal wrote in the language of the foreigners who came to dominate us, so I have written the song in English. Here it is:

Fight, Aglipayanos, as in Battlefield

Fight Aglipayanos, as in battlefield;
Armed with truth as weapon and our faith as shield.
We are not born losers, we were freed to fight;
Knowing Christ is fighting, for justice and light
Chorus:
Fight, Aglipayanos, led by Christ we go,
With our liberator, we'll defeat the foe;
We believe in one God: Father, who begot
Deity's form called wisdom in eternity;
And the Holy Spirit from God also came
So the word became flesh in Jesus, David's seed.

Onward, then, o people, join our happy throng;
Christ is our example, His words make us strong;
Don't forget our heroes, know their teachings too,
So we make this nation sing the victors' song.

—MANOLO O. VAÑO, UP Cebu, Lahug, Cebu City

NSO charges explained

THIS concerns the letters last June 21, 2002, titled "Jeers and cheers for NSO service."

Allow us to express our appreciation to Magno Simbulan of Baguio City and Ross Collado of Mandaluyong City for raising their concerns regarding the services of the National Statistics Office and its alternative channels. Rest assured that it has always been our priority to address public concerns as part of our continuing effort to improve our services. But allow us to clarify certain matters.

It is indeed true that requests for civil registry documents such as birth certificates coursed through our Census Serbilis Centers (Serbilis Centers) cost P110 per copy. This service fee has been collected since we started implementing the computerization of our civil registry services. The NSO Civil Registry System Information Technology Project (NSO-CRS) is a 12-year-project, in partnership with the private sector, with the end in view of providing our clients' "request anywhere" capability. Such services used to be available only at our frontline service counters in Quezon City.

To be able to bring about these changes in our services, civil registry documents on paper and microfilm need to be scanned, digitized and put in our database. The computerization process includes conversion of civil registry documents to digital images as well as the signatures of local civil registrars or authorized issuing officers for authentication purposes. We would like to emphasize that authentication service for documents issued by local civil registry offices in our Serbilis Centers certifies both the specimen signatures and the vital information contained therein. Thus, whether the request is for copy issuance or authentication, the service fee is the same as it passes through the same process.

The authentication service filed with the NSO Serbilis Center includes the issuance of a copy of the civil registry document on a special paper with security features from our database when available. When this is not available, a negative certification is issued which may be used for endorsement and late registration purposes.

Similarly, requests for birth, marriage and death documents through other alternative channels (by phone: Helpline Plus! 737-1111 or via the Internet: e-Census.com.ph) may either result in a copy issuance or a negative certification. The P275 and P290 being charged for destinations within and outside Metro Manila, respectively, include door-to-door delivery by special courier service, among others.

—CARMELITA N. ERICTA, administrator and civil registrar general, National Statistics Office, P.O. Box 779 Manila

What did you think of the Sona or the idea of a 'strong' republic?

Sona *walang natupad.* Sana *ulit. Libre daw 'yung tatlong bata sa eskwela. Talaga namang libre sa gobyerno ang pagaaral di ba* (The State of the Nation has fulfilled nothing. Education given to the three kids—that's a government freebie, isn't it)?—**Edok Sadok**

* * *

The ones saving this nation from economic collapse are the OFWs, not the wannabe economic expert Macapagal.—**Cory**

* * *

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

Sinong credible *na kapalit ni* Glo? *Hindi rin ako bilib sa performance ni* GMA, *pero sino naman ang ipapalit sa kanya* (Who can take Gloria's place? I don't believe in her either, but who can we replace her with)?

Please give us some other leaders out there who aren't traditional politicians!—**BZ**

* * *

Makes me think, *"tuloy,"* if we should give a chance to the likes of Ted Casiño and the other dreaded leftists.

Having a mandate is the key element for a strong republic.—**Edok Sadok**

* * *

Galunggong? That's Tita Cory's gimmick. That was the standard of affordability then, and Ate Glo revived that indicator again.

There you go. We're down in the dumps again.

Take it or leave it. I can only say, roll up your sleeves guys and get to work. My suggestion to her proposals is to have someone watch the watchers. We all know how the system works.—**bribery rules**

* * *

Good luck, Madame President. We are watching!—**baroque**

* * *

To be sure, there is nothing radically novel to expect from the State of the Nation Address save from the style or manner in which the message of a "strong republic" was poignantly conveyed across party lines. True, the Macapagal administration had some, if not copious shortcomings, if we cared a trifle to refer to the pledges she laid in her first Sona. In fact, plenty of those came at prohibitive costs. Notwithstanding this, it would be hardly a responsible proposition to assert the government was an absolute failure. Success, after all, is a relative concept.

For those who toe the administration's line, much had been accomplished, as many targets were surpassed convincingly without necessarily fudging the facts. On the other hand, for those self-styled oppositionists and obdurate militants who never see any good in a capitalist-liberal democratic government, the Macapagal administration is a big disappointment, as if it flunked embarrassingly all the serious tests it underwent. The latter can only hypocritically spout the charge that the Sona was brimming with rhetoric, as if they never engaged in prosaic speeches awash with recondite jargon to impress the benighted masses.

What do we expect from such pretentious, feisty characters with blinkered views, but the carping attitude to damn people regardless of whether they perform correctly or wrongly, or not at all? I wonder how the gripers would run the country when in power and, when presented the opportunity, render their Sonas without the "Red" or some other pseudo-nationalist rhetoric supplicating for their countrymen's support and appealing to class divisions?—**rady1976**

* * *

First, the US ambassador himself declared that foreign investors are running away from this country because the government, even the judiciary is corrupt. We can scream it's not true, until our lungs burst, but the US ambassador has more credibility and is looked up to and listened to by foreign investors.—**svengali**

* * *

I wonder what is happening to Gloria with all this blaming. You are accurate. We should not blame the President for many negative things happening in the Philippines.

Imagine if we pulled a hair from her head for every shortcoming we accuse her of, she'd probably be bald now.

It is not right to blame her for that bad policeman who battered the women at the rally with truncheons.—**jimsantos**

It's the job that is seeking Ople

THE EDITORIAL, titled "Ople's delusion," (PDI, 7/10/02) was grossly unfair and totally unkind to a great man who has done no wrong except to weigh his options on his proposed appointment to the foreign affairs portfolio.

Your editorial stated in unequivocal terms that Ople "believes he is not only the best man for the job of foreign secretary" but he is "totally convinced he is the only man for the job."

Ople is a man of great humility and dignity who does not flaunt his natural gifts and talents just to get himself into a position like that of foreign secretary. His erudition is widely acknowledged by many, including even his peers belonging to opposite political groups, but he does not wear it on his sleeve.

On the contrary, it is people who are well acquainted with his qualifications who are absolutely convinced that he is the right man for the job. As the good senator has said, it is the job seeking him, not he seeking it. In other words, he does not need to impress anyone with his impeccable credentials.

To say that Ople's track record as a journalist and as a government official is impressive is an understatement. Opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara described him as a public figure who is in a class of his own.

As former labor secretary, he has left a rich legacy as the architect of the overseas employment program which has transformed the lives of millions of overseas Filipino workers. The national economy has profited from these so-called "modern heroes" in terms of their foreign exchange remittances averaging $7 billion yearly.

He is acknowledged as the "father" of the Labor Code which is also known as the Magna Carta of Labor. He was the first Filipino to be elected president of the International Labor Conference in Geneva. And in the world of work, he is regarded as the doyen and spokesman of the world's labor ministers.

He has been elected to the Senate twice and he has served there with distinction both as a member and, at one time, its president. He has authored a big number of landmark measures for the common good and has sponsored several international conventions and bilateral treaties related to the protection of migrant workers, trade and investment promotion, cultural exchanges and the protection of the environment.

Ople was the chief sponsor of the Visiting Forces Agreement and co-sponsor with then Sen. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Uruguay Round.

To enfranchise the millions of qualified Filipinos working or residing abroad, he has authored a bill allowing them to vote in a national election.

As a writer both in English and Filipino, he is well respected by his peers for the elegance of his prose, the depth of his thoughts and the clarity of his logic.

I can go on reciting solid facts about his intellectual depth, statesmanship and integrity.

But who will dispute all of these if not the people who are suffering from the worst kind of blindness, they who have eyes but refuse to see with them, and from the severest case of paranoia, with probably a private agenda of their own to suit their selfish personal ends.

—ALFREDO R. GUTIERREZ, 6 Walnut St., Fairview, Quezon City

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Gloria dared: Sell fish at Palace

By G. Lacuarta

THE DISPUTE on the price of *galunggong* may have been already settled when President Macapagal-Arroyo returned to the Commonwealth Market to buy the poor man's fish at P60 á kilo, but militant fisherfolk are not buying it.

Members of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) asked the President to put up a wet market in Malacañang where *galunggong* (round scad) would be sold at a price cheaper than P60 per kilo.

"We dare her to convert Malacañang into a wet market selling poor man's fish at a price half of the prevailing cost per kilo of round scad," said Fernando Hicap, Pamalakaya national chair.

"Let us see if she could prove her point that she could lower the price of this political commodity in real sense," Hicap said.

Hicap said *galunggong* even at P60 per kilo was still beyond the reach of ordinary people.

'Image-making'

Hicap chided Ms Macapagal for resorting to *galunggong* politics to impress the public that her administration did better compared to the previous administration of Joseph Estrada.

Hicap further said the President was exploiting the issue of *galunggong* to build an image of a populist president in preparation for her expected presidential bid in 2004.

Ms Macapagal on Wednesday went out of her way to prove that *galunggong* was sold at P60 a kilo and that it was not *bilasa* (stale). This was prompted by calls received by radio stations a day after the President's State of the Nation Address from housewives who pointed out that the fish Ms Macapagal bought last week at P60 per kilo must have been either stale or small.

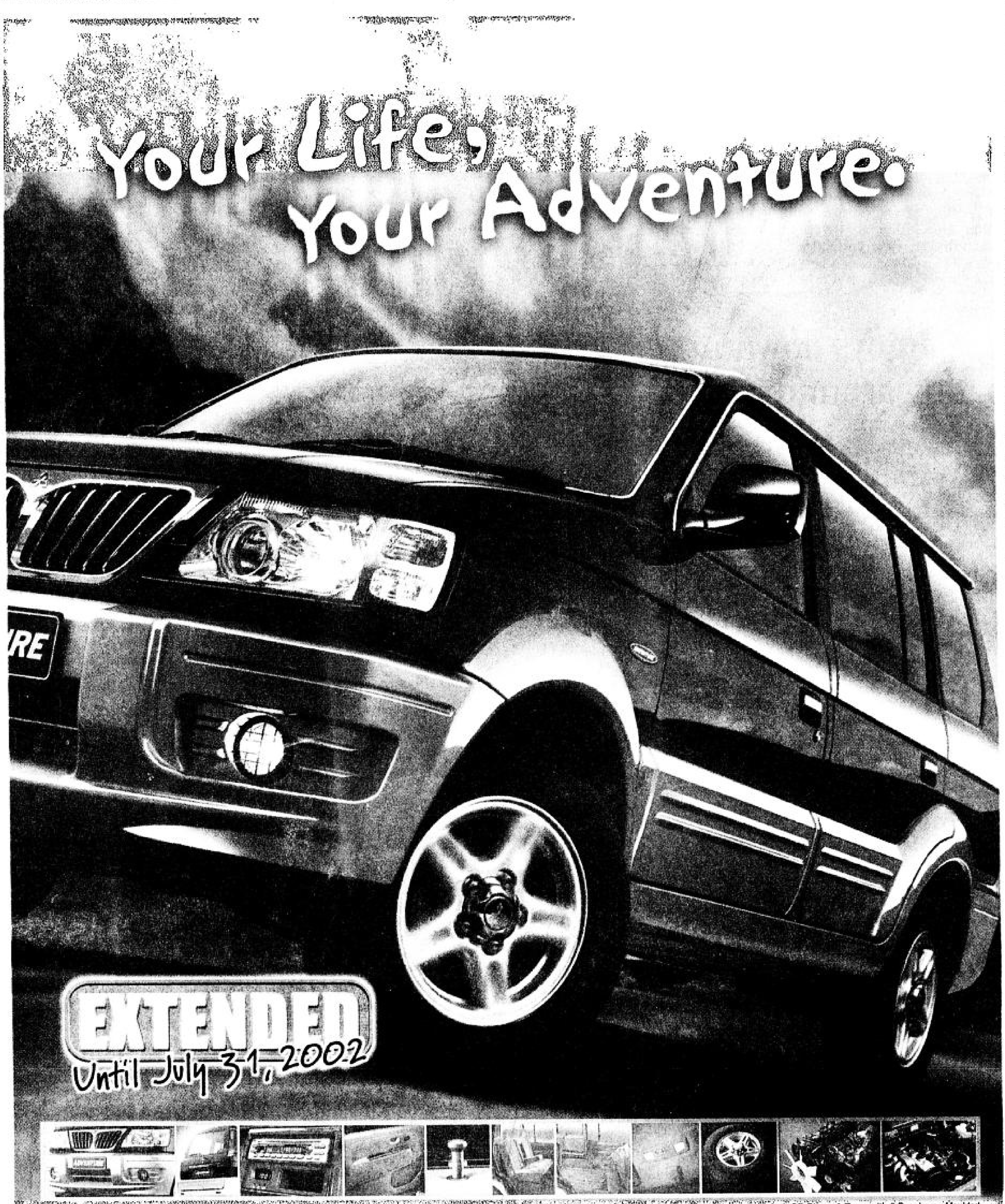
Fish cartels

She also directed Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II to put out full-page ads "to tell the public where to buy *galunggong* at P60 a kilo." In her Sona, the President mentioned the price of *galunggong* to emphasize that food prices were stable under her administration.

But Gerry Albert Corpuz, Pamalakaya information officer, said Ms Macapagal should go to the fish ports and see for herself the actual wholesale and retail price of the poor man's fish instead of visiting wet markets for cheap publicity stints.

Corpuz pointed out that big traders and fish cartels dictate the prices of poor man's fish like *galunggong* because they control the distribution and marketing of fish products.

He said "fish lords" and big fish traders buy fish from local fishermen and petty producers at rock bottom prices and then pass these on to consumers at high costs.



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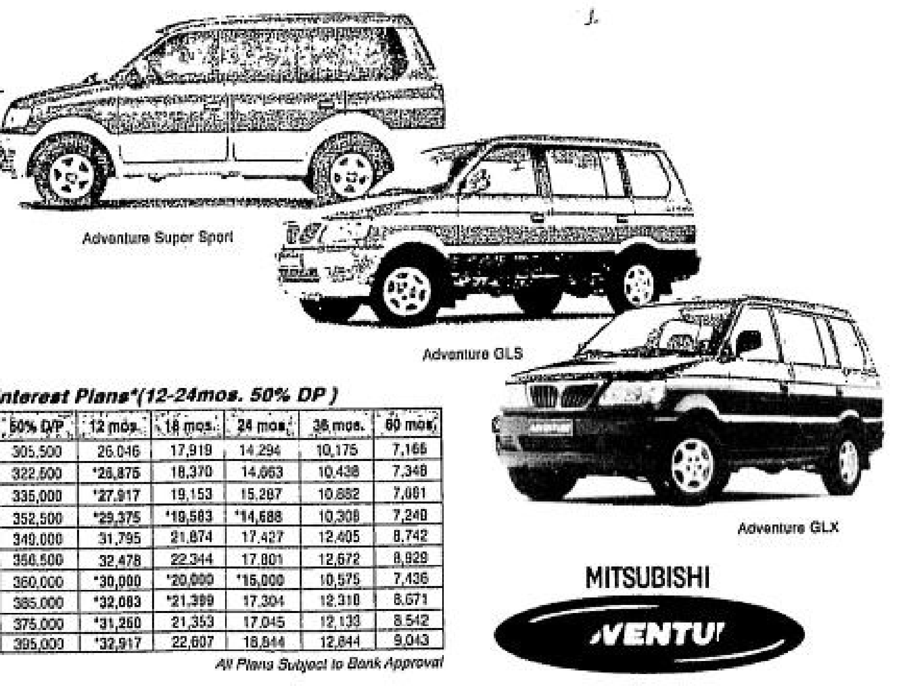

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GLX Gas M/T	645,000	99,000	25,768	18,341
Diesel M/T	670,000	80,000	26,764	19,052
GLS Gas M/T	705,000	90,000	28,162	20,047
GLS Sport Gas M/T	698,000	139,600	27,883	19,848
Sport Diesel	713,000	142,600	28,482	20,276
GLS Diesel M/T	720,000	90,000	28,762	20,474
Super Sport Diesel M/T	770,000	114,000	30,759	21,896
Super Sport Gas M/T	750,000	115,000	29,960	21,327
Gas A/T	790,000	123,000	31,559	22,464

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Model	SRP	50% D/P	12 mos.	18 mos.	24 mos.	36 mos.	60 mos.
GL Diesel M/T	611,000	305,500	26,046	17,919	14,294	10,175	7,166
GLX Gas M/T	645,000	322,500	*26,875	18,370	14,663	10,438	7,348
Diesel M/T	670,000	335,000	*27,917	19,153	15,287	10,882	7,661
GLS Gas M/T	705,000	352,500	*29,375	*19,583	*14,688	10,308	7,240
GLS Sport Gas M/T	698,000	349,000	31,795	21,874	17,427	12,405	8,742
Sport Diesel	713,000	356,500	32,478	22,344	17,801	12,672	8,929
GLS Diesel M/T	720,000	360,000	*30,000	*20,000	*15,000	10,575	7,436
Super Sport Diesel M/T	770,000	385,000	*32,083	*21,389	17,304	12,318	8,671
Super Sport Gas M/T	750,000	375,000	*31,250	21,353	17,045	12,133	8,542
Gas A/T	790,000	395,000	*32,917	22,607	18,044	12,844	9,043

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Israel tries to offset air strike fiasco

JERUSALEM—Israel eased restrictions on the Palestinians and unleashed a top diplomat in a damage-control effort after admitting that bombing a Gaza building and killing 14 bystanders, along with a Hamas militant, was a "mistake."

In violence early Thursday, one Israeli was killed and another seriously injured in a shooting attack in the West Bank, according to rescue services and the Israeli military. Gunmen, apparently Palestinians, opened fire on their car near the Jewish settlement of Elei Zahav, south of the Palestinian town of Qalqiliya.

The UN Security Council met to consider condemning Israel for the bombing, just the latest in a string of denunciations from the United States, Europe, the Arab world and the Palestinians. Hamas commander Salah Shehadeh was killed in the attack.

World critics rejected Israel's explanation that it was aiming only for Shehadeh, charging that Israel's policy of killing terror suspects is a violation of international law. The most scathing statements, however, centered on the fact that so many bystanders were killed and wounded.

The Israeli military was investigating what went wrong. Military commanders insisted they did not know civilians would be hurt, though they used a huge bomb on an apartment building.

On Wednesday, Palestinians pulled the bodies of three children out of the rubble. They were already counted among the dead. Relatives did not think their bodies could be recovered.

More than 100 people were injured in the bombing, most of them in adjoining structures damaged by the bomb, reported by Israeli media to weigh a ton. *AP*

Pope enjoys downtime boating around island

TORONTO—After making a triumphant arrival in Canada, Pope John Paul on Wednesday was resting and boating around a secluded island far from the adoring crowds.

The 82-year-old Roman Catholic leader was spending his first full day in Canada on Strawberry Island, about 100 km north of Toronto, which is usually used as a Church retreat for a small order of Catholic priests.

This time the Lake Simcoe island, named after the fruit that grows wild there, is hosting probably the most illustrious visitor it will ever have.

Vatican spokesperson Joaquin Navarro-Valls told reporters in Toronto the Pope slept well, woke early, prayed for about 90 minutes in a makeshift chapel and then toured the island on a golf cart.

He then took a two-hour ride on a small white yacht and was feted by some 50 handicapped children who rode out to him in pedalboats from a lakeside institution where they live.

The Pope ordered his boat stopped and his aides gave the children rosary beads, Navarro-Valls said.

He said the Pope, who this year gave up his yearly mountain holiday, was moved by the beauty of the place.

"His mind is with the young people in Toronto but his heart is there on the island. I think he is a little bit divided," the spokesperson said.

The Pope is on his 97th foreign trip and Vatican handlers have inserted plenty of papal downtime.

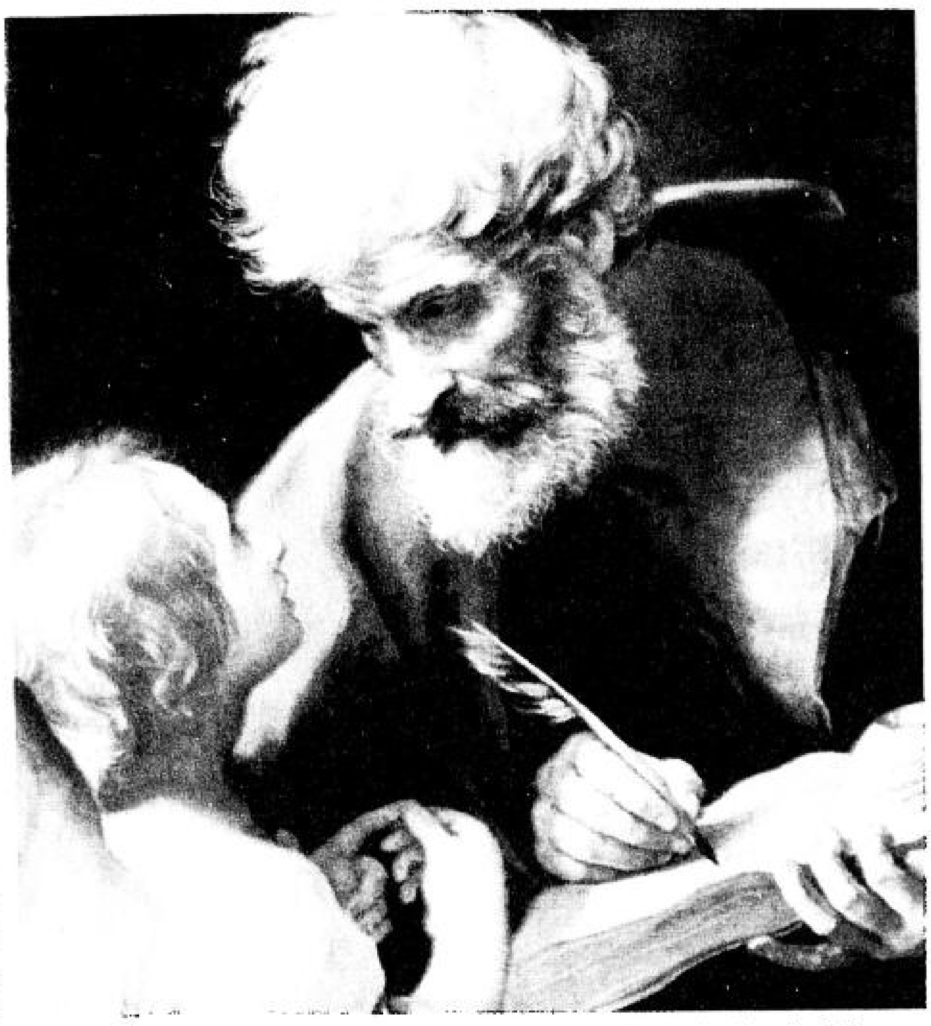
He will spend 48 hours on the island before returning to Toronto on Thursday afternoon to formally open the Church's World Youth Day, a sort of Catholic Woodstock attended by hundreds of thousands of young people.

The Pope began his trip on a high note when he arrived on Tuesday, and, overruling his handlers, walked down the 27 steps of a stairway to the tarmac instead of using a waiting cargo lift.

Apart from Parkinson's disease, the Pope has been suffering from debilitating, painful and sometimes crippling arthritis, so his decision took everyone by surprise.

The change in plans prompted one Canadian newspaper to assign its medical reporter to analyze the significance of the 27 steps. If anything, the Pope's decision showed his determination and the ability for his strong mind to overrule his frail body.

When the Pope reached the tarmac, he banged his cane on the ground repeatedly in an apparent sign of satisfaction. *Reuters*



"ST. MATTHEW and the Angel," an oil on canvas by Guido Reni dating back to the 16th or 17th century, is one of the artworks loaned by the Vatican to the Royal Ontario Museum for an exhibition titled "Images of Salvation" that is taking place as Pope John Paul II visits Toronto for World Youth Day celebrations. Dogged by scandal and shrinking congregations, the Catholic Church is turning to 123 masterpieces to offer a message of hope to pilgrims. AP

Adelphia founder arrested, charged with looting firm

NEW YORK—Warning that corporate crimes will result in "handcuffs and a jail cell," federal authorities arrested the founder of Adelphia Communications and two sons Wednesday on charges they looted the now-bankrupt cable company and used it as their "personal piggy bank."

John Rigas, 78, Adelphia's founder, former chairman and CEO, and his sons, Timothy, 46, and Michael 48, were accused of stealing hundreds of millions of dollars from the nation's sixth-largest cable company, causing losses to investors of more than $60 billion.

Two other former executives—James R. Brown, 40, the former vice president of finance, and Michael C. Mulcahey, 48, the former director of internal reporting—were arrested in Pennsylvania.

The arrests followed two other major corporate prosecutions announced recently in Manhattan, against former executives at Tyco International Ltd. and ImClone Systems Inc.

William Kezer, head of the US Postal Inspection Service in New York, which made the arrests, said they were "a clear message to corporate wrongdoers that handcuffs and a jail cell await those who violate the trust placed in them."

The White House, which has been criticized as being too close to big business, said the Adelphia arrests prove it can crack down on corporate fraud.

"This government will investigate, will arrest and will prosecute corporate executives who break the law, and the Justice Department took action today," President Bush said." *AP*

Experts predict US attack on Iraq will be smaller in scale

By Peter Graff

LONDON—Instead of a massive Gulf War-style ground invasion of Iraq, US generals may be plotting a smaller-scale operation to cut off Bagdhad from the outside world, military experts say.

But that could mean leaving Saddam Hussein in place, at least for the short term, despite Washington's desire for a "regime change."

"We're getting reasonable signs on both sides of the Atlantic that something is afoot and something is moving," Major Charles Heyman, editor of defense journal Jane's World Armies, said.

"But it's not the 250,000-man assault that we have been led to think," he said. "I am still not seeing the signs that I should have seen right now for a very large scale deployment."

Heyman predicted far smaller numbers of US and British-led troops would mount an operation to shut down all Iraqi airfields, ports and road links with the outside world.

Their goal would be to force Iraqi leaders to allow UN weapons inspectors to return to the country—not necessarily to topple its government.

"Obviously the ultimate aim would be regime change, but the immediate aim would be to ensure that whoever is in Baghdad, they do not have access to weapons of mass destruction," Heyman said.

"It would certainly not mean a march on Baghdad that would throw out Saddam." Since President George W. Bush declared in a speech that Iraq was part of an "axis of evil," speculation has swirled over whether he planned to finish where his father left off at the end of the Gulf War, and remove the Iraqi leader from power.

But although US officials have put themselves under strong political pressure to take military action against Iraq, their plans may fall short of ousting Saddam, at least for now.

If the US goal was to topple Iraq's government at any cost, regional experts say the only certain way to succeed would be to mount another full-blown invasion that repeated the Gulf War dictum of bringing to bear "overwhelming force."

"There's no way on earth that aerial power alone or special forces is going to unseat that regime," said Toby Dodge, an Iraq specialist in London. *Reuters*

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Ecija town councilor slain in ambush

CABANATUAN CITY—Hooded armed men ambushed on Wednesday a councilor of Sto. Domingo town, 25 km northwest of here, while he was on his way home after attending a council session, police said.

Police said Luisito Sigua, 42, the only Lakas-NUCD member in the opposition-dominated town council, died before reaching the Sto. Domingo Emergency Hospital. His body had 11 bullet wounds.

The gunmen bumped the pickup truck he was driving before firing at him, police said. The shooting happened near the councilor's house at Barangay Mambarao in Sto. Domingo.

Investigators recovered empty shells for M-16 Armalite rifle from the scene.

Police said Sigua jumped from his vehicle and was picked up by responding villagers who took him to the hospital.

Investigators are looking into politics as the motive. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

DBM denies irregularity in 'desilting' projects

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Budget Undersecretary Mario Relampagos denied irregularities in the release of at least P563 million to what he claimed were solely desilting projects.

He said the allotment of these funds recovered by the defunct Mount Pinatubo Commission had been approved by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"There was no diversion of funds," Relampagos said, referring to an INQUIRER story that bared the trend and the priority in the allotment of MPC recovered funds estimated at more than P1 billion.

He admitted it was under his helm that the funds were released.

The Department of Budget and Management, through Relampagos, headed the Task Force MPC formed by ousted President Joseph Estrada in July 2000.

The DBM supervised the finances of the Pinatubo project management office created by Ms Macapagal last year under the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

Relampagos said the HUDCC in turn administered the unfinished tasks of the Pinatubo body.

Until 2001, documents referred to Relampagos as the executive director of the Task Force MPC.

Of the more than P1 billion in recovered funds, the DBM released P563 million to the Department of Public Works and Highways and to the provincial governments of Bataan, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales for 36 desilting projects, documents showed.

The DPWH sub-district in Angeles City received the single largest share although the city was not flood-prone.

The checks covering these releases were dated from September last year to June this year.

The P563 million was almost equivalent to the amount the Task Force MPC gave to the 51st Engineering Brigade.

After getting P450 million to build 2,500 houses in San Isidro and Bulaon resettlements in Pampanga, the Army unit got an additional P112.5 million to cover cost adjustments.

The task force also gave the engineering brigade at least P4.6 million to build houses for 51 Aeta families relocated to Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija.

Relampagos confirmed that the task force made these releases but could not exactly tell the total amount of the recovered funds. These amounts were pooled from government agencies that had excess money from MPC projects, it was learned.

Relampagos said the President approved the MPC's winding-up activities which were on desilting and housing. "We had no dredging, just desilting but these were not of the DPWH type," he said, adding the work involved "cleaning up rivers" and "reducing the threats of floods to structures."

Asked who identified desilting as a priority, Relampagos pointed to the MPC technical staff. But sources formerly with the MPC or are now with the PPMO said the technical staff had no hand in determining the priority projects.

Relampagos also said local officials "supported the plans for desilting."

DPWH sources said most of the money "did not pass through" the department.

Relampagos said the HUDCC did not raise questions on the desilting projects, saying these were on stream when the council began administering to the PPMO early this year.

He said there was no need to build more houses since the task force had met the target of 3,000 units. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Mad man, not schoolmates, may have killed 7-year-old boy

CEBU CITY—Seven-year-old Zalbert Samonte may not have been beaten by his schoolmates in Tejero Elementary School but by a man who got mad after the boy refused to buy ice candy for him.

This was raised yesterday by Joel Garganera, Barangay Captain of Tinago, after talking to at least 10 pupils of the school last Wednesday.

Garganera, who is coordinating with the police in investigating Samonte's death, said four of these pupils had admitted to seeing the man beating up the boy following an altercation during recess on July 17.

He said he submitted at least three names of possible suspects to the Waterfront police. He declined to name them so as not to hamper investigation.

Garganera's revelation negated the statement of Manuel Canales Jr., 9, to the investigating panel formed by the Cebu City Schools Division.

Canales earlier said he was in the comfort room when four Grade 2 pupils ganged up on Samonte. He said one of the pupils picked up a piece of hardened cement and hit it on Samonte's right temple. But Garganera said Canales might have been confused. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Civil Service Commission announces the semi-finalists to this year's *Lingkod Bayan, Dangal ng Bayan, Pagasa* and *Katangi-tanging Bihasang Manggagawa* Awards.

2002 LINGKOD BAYAN AWARD (PARTIAL LIST)

1. **ACEBEDO, Cesar A.**
Elementary Grade Teacher III, DepEd
Aparri, West District, Aparri, Cagayan
2. **AFFALA, James Jamandre**
PC/Insp.-Chief of Police
Bambang Police Station
3. **AMENA, Nelly A.**
Midwife III, Hinigaran Mun. Gov't.
Hinigaran, Negros Occidental
4. **ARRIOLA, Carmelita A.**
Labor Attache-Designate
DOLE-ILAS, Intramuros, Manila
5. **ASANJI, Abraham U.**
Investigator PNCO, PNP Special Group, Maguindanao
6. **BALOYO, Mary Grace**
Line Pilot/Asst. CMO Officer, Phil. Air Force, Sangley Point, Cavite City
7. **BARRETO, Serafin**
J/Supt. Warden/Chief of Staff
Davao City Jail, Ma-a, Davao City
8. **BUENAFLOR, Nelson C.**
President & CEO, Quedan & Rural Credit Guarantee Corp.
9. **CABANG, Leticia E.**
Schools Div. Superintendent
DepEd-Division of Sarangani, Alabel, Sarangani Province
10. **CAJA, Evelyn B.**
Teacher III/Special Educ. Teacher Ramon Magsaysay High School, España, Manila
11. **CAWALING, Johann C.**
Master Teacher I, Kalibo Elem. School II, District of Aklan, Kalibo, Aklan
12. **CERVANCIA, Cleofas R.**
Professor, Univ. of the Phils. In Los Baños
13. **CORNEJO, Maria Cristina J.**
Presiding Judge, Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 68, Pasig City
14. **CUEVAS, Merlita C.**
Rural Health Midwife III, Mun. Rural Health Office, Zamboanga Sibugay
15. **FALGUI, Danilo C.**
Asst. Prof. IV, Kalinga-Apayao State College, Tabuk, Kalinga
16. **GANAY, Cliffton U.**
Exec. Judge, Dept. of Justice, Br. 31
Regional Trial Court, Agoo, La Union
17. **HARAYO, Thelma C.**
State Auditor V, COA Reg. 10
Cagayan de Oro City
18. **LACISTE, Federico**
Police Comm. Officer, PNP- Narcotics Group, Camp Crame, Q.C.
19. **LAO, Mardonio M.**
President, Central Mindanao University
Musuan, Bukidnon
20. **MALABANAN, Frisco M.**
Chief Science Res. Specialist
Dept. of Agriculture
21. **MAYARI, Flordeliza R.**
ASDS, DepEd-Marikina City
22. **MORGA, Joaquin B.**
Brgy. Tanod, Brgy. Telbang, Alaminos, Pangasinan
23. **NALUNDASAN, Marylis A.**
Educ. Res. Asst. II, Mariano Marcos State Univ. Batac, Ilocos Norte
24. **PINTUCAN, Crilo**
Medical Specialist II, Dept. of Health Carig, Tuguegarao City
25. **PONTIPEDRA, Romeo P.**
Postman III, Phil. Postal Service Reg. 10
26. **QUILO, Aurelio D.**
Brgy. Captain, Brgy. Guinicolalay, Dinas, Zamboanga del Sur
27. **RAMIREZ, Alfredo T.**
Chancellor, UP-Manila
28. **RICAMONTE, Edgar M.**
College President, Quirino State College, Diffun, Quirino
29. **SAGPANG, Felisa C.**
Agriculturist II, Agriculture Office Gov't. Center, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur
30. **SALAZAR, Carmen V.**
Master Teacher II, Bacolod City SPED Center, DepEd, Bacolod City
31. **TAMPICAN, Elena B.**
Nurse III, Luis Hora Memorial Regional Hospital, Mt. Province
32. **YUMUL, Graciano, Jr. P.**
Exec Director, DOST, Taguig, Metro Manila

2002 DANGAL NG BAYAN AWARD

1. **ALLAGA, Felipe Tono**
Municipal Mayor, Bagumbayan, Sultan Kudarat
2. **ASIGNADO, Rogelio Francisco**
Fire Sr. Superintendent, Fire National Training Institute, Camp Vicente Lim, Calamba, Laguna
3. **BAUTISTA, Elpidio Rapanot**
Associate Professor V, Univ. of Southern Mindanao, Kabacan, Cotabato
4. **BAUTISTA, Jose Benidicto R.**
Post Master II, Phil. Postal Service
Nueva Ecija
5. **BAYBAY, Nida Angot A.**
Stenog. Reporter II, Dept. of Labor & Employment, Butuan City
6. **CAGALPIN, Purificacion A.**
Midwife III, Mun. Gov't. of Quezon, Sariaya, Quezon
7. **CATUBURAN, Elvira Galendez**
Midwife II, National Commission on Indigenous People, Butuan City
8. **DALE, Ronald Ponce**
Computer Operator I, LGU, Buhanginan Hills, Pala-o, Iligan City
9. **DEL ROSARIO, Ninie Castro**
Master Teacher I, Sta. Ana Central Elem. School, Davao City
10. **DIZON, Ricardo Abordo**
Customs Operations Officer III,
NAIA Customs House, Pasay City
11. **DUMAGUING, Peter Takinan**
Chief Agrarian Reform Prog. Officer
Dept. of Agrarian Reform
Guisad, Baguio City
12. **ESPONILLA, Emy Fier Simbulan**
Dist. Supervisor, Div. of City School, Pobcaran Dist., Caloocan City
13. **FABRE, Antonio Boca**
Laborer III, Phil. Coconut Authority
Dampas Dist. Tagbilaran City
14. **FADRIQUELAN, Linda Fabella**
Secondary School Principal I, Mabini High School, Romblon
15. **FORONDA, Mercedes A.**
J/Sr. Supt. Deputy Chief
Bureau of Jail Mgt. & Penology
Diliman, Q.C.
16. **GIDO, Felicidad Ramos**
Police Chief Inspector, CIDG-PNP
Camp Crame, Quezon City
17. **GUIOMALA, Aladdin Malgayo**
City Fire Marshall
Office of the City Fire Marshall
Davao City
18. **GUION, Carlito Vito**
Chief of Police, PNP, San Jose de Buenavista Police Station, Antique
19. **KWAN TIU, Wilberto Ang**
Sr. Insp./City Fire Marshall, Panabo City Fire Station, Davao City
20. **NACARIO, Agapito Saniel**
Chief Inspector
Caloocan City Fire Station
21. **NARIO, Estelita Buhain**
Customs Operations Officer III
Bureau of Customs, Parañaque
22. **ORALLO, Nadelline Clemente**
State Auditor IV, Com. on Audit-CAR
Branch Auditor, Baguio City
23. **PADILLA, Ricardo Ilagan**
Police Superintendent, PNP, Camp Tirso Gador, Tuguegarao City
24. **PAJO, Esperanza Delfin**
Univ. President, Naval Institute of Technology, Naval, Biliran
25. **MOSQUITO, Dominador Malay**
SPO3, PNP, Cagayan de Oro City
26. **SAKING, Basilio Panostian**
Jail Officer IV, Bureau of Jail Mgt. & Penology, Baguio City
27. **SALAZAR, Jaime Teo**
Associate Prof. V, Mariano Marcos State Univ., Batac, Ilocos Norte
28. **SANCHEZ, Froilan Frias**
Asst. OIC, NAIA, Pasay City
29. **SANGALANG, Sonia Gayeta**
Sr. Collection Officer, PAG-IBIG Fund, 15th Ave., Cubao, Q.C.
30. **TABIEROS, Fely Cuaresma**
Midwife III, LGU-Sanchez Mira, Cagayan
31. **TAMAYAO, Dominador Olea**
Coll. Prof., Cagayan State Univ. Carig Campus, Tuguegarao City
32. **TULANG, Joven Rivera**
Agrarian Reform Officer II, Dept. of Agrarian Reform, Agusan Del Sur
33. **YANGA, Mario Biong**
City Police Director, PNP, Gov. Lim Ave., Zamboanga City

2002 PAGASA AWARD

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY

1. **BANGYOD, Joe Fernand L.**
Mun. Fire Marshall, Bu. of Fire Protection, Bagabag Fire Station, Nueva Vizcaya
2. **DARAUAY, Imelda N.**
Division Chief, Home Development Mutual Fund, Tuguegarao Reg'l. Office,
Ong Chong Bldg., Tuguegarao City
3. **DELA CRUZ, Imelda A. .**
Sr. Science Research Specialist
Phil. Rice Research Institute,
Muñoz, Nueva Ecija
4. **EUGENIO, Benjamin E.**
Municipal Civil Registrar
Mun. Gov't. of Sablayan, Occ. Mindoro
5. **JUNIO, Edna T.**
Prov'l. Social Welfare & Dev't. Worker
Prov'l. Gov't. of Cagayan
Tuguegarao City
6. **MALICSE, Myrna Fabro**
Teacher I, Pato-o Elem. School-DepEd
Odiongan, Romblon
7. **MANCAO, Betty**
WHO & DOH Coordinator
Dept. of Rehabilitation Medicine
Philippine General Hospital
Taft Ave., Manila
8. **MOLO, Jasmin Borda**
Mobile Teacher, DepEd-San Fernando, Romblon
9. **PADILLA, Nilo E.**
Prof. VI/Deputy Director, Isabela State Univ./Cagayan Agriculture & Resources Research & Dev't., Echague, Isabela
10. **RAMORAN, Flordelina B.**
Project Site Coordinator, Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Ilocos Norte
11. **ROSALES, Crispina M.**
Sr. Science Research Specialist
Phil. Nuclear Science Research Institute-DOST

GROUP CATEGORY

1. **BIR-CAR Audit Team**
Bureau of Internal Revenue-CAR, Baguio City
2. **BSWM Performance Team**
Bu. of Soils & Water Mgt.,
Eliptical Rd. cor. Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
3. **Center for Int'l. Trade Expositions & Missions**
Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Pasay City
4. **IBP Plant Biotech Research Team**
Institute of Plant Breeding, College of Agriculture, UPLB, Laguna
5. **NPC Pulangi IV Hydroelectric Plant (HEP)**
National Power Corp., Camp I, Maramag, Bukidnon
6. **Under Five Clinic**
Baguio General Hospital & Medical Center, BGH Cmpd., Baguio City

2002 KATANGI-TANGING BIHASANG MANGGAGAWA AWARD

1. **AGCOPRA, Rico Apal**
Sr. Electrician, Nat'l. Power Corp.
Agus 6/7 Hydroelectric Plant, Iligan City
2. **ARNOCO, Job B.**
Water Resource Facilities Operator A
Pagadian City Water District
Pagadian City
3. **BELGAR, Fidel Peña Jr.**
Mechanic III, National Institute of Molecular Biology & Biotechnology, UP Los Baños, Laguna
4. **DIVINA, Florentino Esporlas**
Sr. Currency Operations Officer
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Diliman, Quezon City
5. **FALLARIA, Danilo F.**
LGU, Odiongan, Romblon
6. **PASTOR, Brent Gaa**
Utility Worker, Looc National High School, Looc, Romblon
7. **TABANGAY, Mady Franco**
Agricultural Technologist, Prov'l. Gov't. of Palawan, Puerto Princesa, Palawan

The Committees on Awards request any reaction or information, either positive or negative, about the above-mentioned semi-finalists. Kindly submit information to the Honor Awards Program Secretariat (HAP), Public Information Service, Civil Service Commission, Diliman, Quezon City on or before **August 12, 2002.** HAP secretariat contact numbers are 931-6850/51; 931-8043; 931-7993; e-mail address: pis@csc.gov.ph. Information received beyond the deadline shall no longer be entertained or acted upon. All information received will be kept confidential.

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Civil Service Commission**

No pay for Bicol teachers

LEGAZPI CITY—Can this paper buy milk and rice for my family? This was raised by some public schoolteachers in various high schools in the Bicol region after getting only "pay slips" for their salaries for July, instead of pay checks, last Tuesday.

Bernadette Robles of the DepEd Payroll Services Division in Bicol confirmed the delay in the issuance of the pay checks but said their office has already done its part and blamed the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

She added that they have prepared the payroll so they released the pay slips. The Albay division alone has over P6.1-million budget for teachers' salaries or P28 million for the region.

DBM Bicol senior supervising budget specialist Bella Regaspi admitted that her office failed to issue the notice of cash allocation (NCA), required for fund releases, because the budget for Bicol is deficit for this month.

She added that the DBM here has requested an additional cash release from the central office to cope with the budgets of various agencies.

She revealed that the DBM has released only P220 million for the region this month, while the DepEd alone needs P500 million.

She said she could not assure the 38,702 teachers in Bicol that their salaries will be released this week. *Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Luzon*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST. The Western sections of Luzon and Visayas will continue to experience occasional monsoon rains. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Monsoon Rains	HI 30°	L[illegible]
Baguio	Monsoon Rains	HI 19°	Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32°	Lo 26°
Laoag	Monsoon Rains	HI 28°	Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Monsoon Rains	HI 28°	Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Monsoon Rains	HI 28°	Lo 24°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31°	Lo 25°
Calapan	Monsoon Rains	HI 29°	Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Monsoon Rains	HI 30°	Lo 24°
Roxas	Monsoon Rains	HI 30°	Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31°	Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32°	Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 33°	Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyosa, PDI Research/07/26/02

ROUNDUP

Rebels torch bus

LEGAZPI CITY—Suspected members of the New People's Army in Albay burned a passenger bus bound for Manila at 6:45 p.m., Tuesday, in Barangay Bariw, Camalig. Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Bicol police chief, said the suspected rebels boarded the bus at its terminal in Legazpi City and upon reaching Camalig, ordered the driver at gunpoint to proceed to Barangay Bariw. Upon reaching the village, they ordered the 61 passengers and three bus employees to get off the bus. Six other rebels joined the suspects in setting the bus on fire with the use of gasoline, Galang said. The Camalig Bureau of Fire and Protection was able to put off the fire. The 501st Provincial Police Mobile Group led by Insp. John Ureta failed to catch up with the suspects who fled towards Barangay Palanog in Camalig.

Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

3 robbers fall

LEGAZPI CITY—Three members of a holdup gang were injured in a shootout with policemen in a failed robbery of a Petron gas station at Barangay Poblacion, Vinzons, Camarines Norte, Monday evening. Supt. Florencio Magundayao, Camarines Norte police director, identified the suspects as Opeying Copino, Roberto Canapi and Melchor Dichoso. Magundayao said elements of the Provincial Police Intelligence Section, 503rd Police Mobile Group and the Vinzons police station engaged the armed gang in a firefight before they could escape on board a motorcycle. All three gang members sustained bullet wounds in the body and were treated at the Camarines Norte Provincial Hospital.

Roly Casim Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Hunted for blast

BAGUIO CITY—Police are looking for eight men suspected of planting a pack of dynamite sticks that blew up in a karaoke bar here on Tuesday night. Supt. Villamor Bumanglag, city police director, said the explosives were planted in the toilet of the GJ Karaoke Bar on Magsaysay Avenue. No one was reported hurt in the blast but more than P50,000 worth of property was damaged.

Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Deported man kills 2

LAOAG CITY—A Filipino deported from the United States stabbed and killed last week a 63-year-old woman and her son in Barangay Baruyen, Bangui town. Police arrested Glenn Molina, 31, after he killed his neighbors Lydia Alcala, 63, and her son Lito, 27. Witnesses said the younger Alcala was on his way home when Molina blocked his way and repeatedly stabbed him. When Alcala cried for help, his mother came but Molina also stabbed her.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Case dismissed

BAGUIO CITY—The city prosecutor's office dismissed a case against two workers of an electronics firm here who were charged with stealing three spools of gold wire for lack of evidence. Assistant City Prosecutor Octavio Banta and Prosecutor Conrado Catral Jr. said pictures of the surveillance camera, which supposedly showed Rex de Asis and Fernando Cancejo, both equipment engineers of Texas Instruments Philippines Inc., were too blurred to establish their identities. TIPI officials filed the charges against Cancejo and De Asis last month after the gold wires were reported lost in February.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Japanese nat'l nabbed

DAVAO CITY—A Japanese national was arrested after he reportedly sexually molested a 21-year-old resident of Tugbok District here early this week. Yotoka Ozeki, 46, and a temporary resident of Greenmeadows Subdivision, allegedly tried to rape Lyka (not the real name) after a drinking session. The victim told investigators that she was asleep inside a relative's house, where she and several others, including the Japanese had a drinking session, when the suspect sneaked in and brought her into a passenger jeep, which was parked outside. She said she was awaken by Ozeki's advances. Lyka said she screamed for help, prompting the Japanese to flee. Authorities later collared Ozeki.

Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Fr. Finster, S.J., 87

DAVAO CITY—Rev. Fr. Paul Finster, S.J., former Rector-President of Ateneo de Davao University, died Monday after a lingering illness. Born in Baltimore, Maryland, USA, Father Finster, 87, has received the city's most prestigious award, the Datu Bago, for his dedicated service to the citizens of Davao. Interment was held yesterday at the Catholic Cemetery.

Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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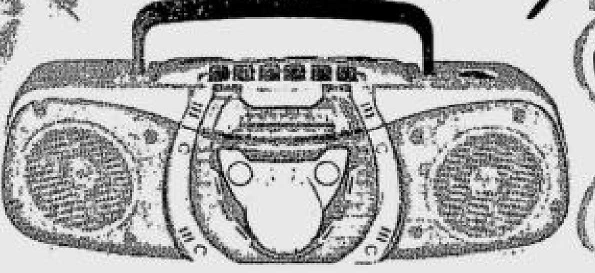

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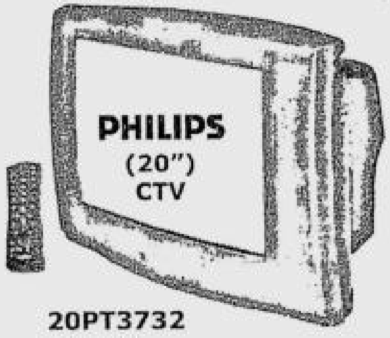

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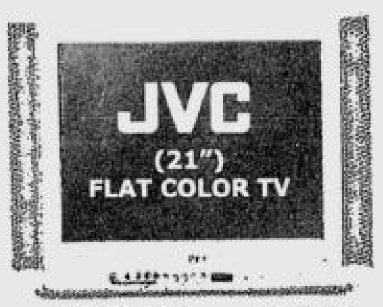

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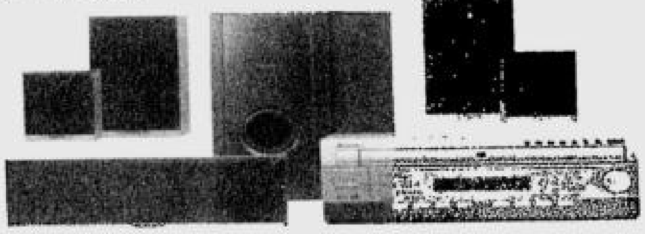

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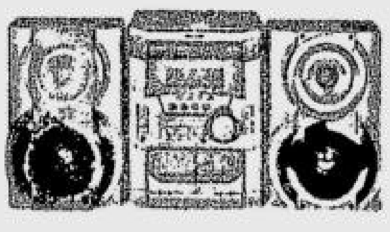

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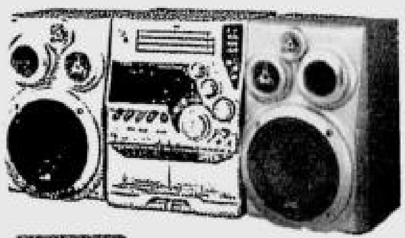

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aiwa

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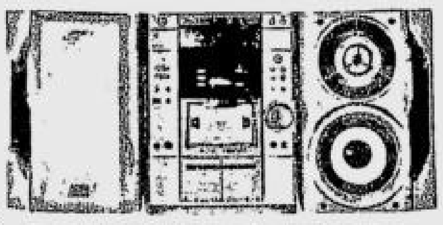

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Malacañang wooing two more senators

From page A1

"overseer" of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, while Biazon has been offered the chairmanship of the Senate defense committee, if he joins the administration party.

Osmeña, too

Sen. John Osmeña, whose switch to the opposition on June 3 triggered the Senate coup, said yesterday he too believed that two more opposition senators might join the administration, but he refused to name them.

Asked for comment, opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara tried to make light of the scenario. "I don't see that happening, but if it happens, then maybe my colleagues are really weak," Angara said, with a laugh.

Reminded of his claim over the weekend that the opposition was solid as a rock, Angara quipped, "with Senator Ople gone, we've been reduced to a pebble. *Pero nakakapuwing pa rin* (but we can still sting)."

Sen. Panfilo Lacson chided Malacañang for admitting that President Macapagal-Arroyo had a hand in Jaworski's switch.

"(Ms Macapagal's) admission was uncalled for because it validates our suspicion that this Senate is not an independent Senate," Lacson said.

"There she goes again. (Ms Macapagal) wanted to project a strong leadership because she would like to make it appear that she was the one who convinced Jaworski and Ople to leave the erstwhile 'new majority,'" Lacson said.

With Ople as secretary of foreign affairs, Drilon said, administration senators now outnumber the opposition 13 to 10.

Senate reorganization

The decision of Jaworski and Ople to support the administration has thrown the Senate into a reorganization frenzy, with much of the talk centering on the powerful finance and defense committees.

BIAZON

SOTTO

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, defense panel chair, said he was willing to give up his chairmanship to Biazon on one condition: that Biazon join the administration.

Magsaysay said this condition was imposed by his colleagues in the majority even if Biazon was already the most qualified to head the committee, being a former chief of staff of the Armed Forces.

"There has to be a condition. He (Biazon) has to join the majority because it is a critical committee. If he is with the minority and a chairman of this committee, he'll be wearing two hats. He'll be critical and at the same time supportive of the defense policies of the administration," he said.

Magsaysay said Biazon need not worry about losing his "independence" as a senator if he joined the majority, because "we will not dictate on him."

He pointed out that Jaworski was allowed to join the majority without any concession. In fact, he said, Jaworski would still vote with the opposition if the question of the legality of the three-day "rump session" last month was raised.

Angara's committee

Magsaysay said Angara would likely retain the chairmanship of the committee on constitutional amendments and electoral reforms, because of his legal expertise.

He said other opposition senators may also be given chairmanships.

Magsaysay said Ople had wanted him to be the new chair of the committee on foreign relations. "That is a suggestion he mentioned to me a couple of days ago," he said.

"However, this will all depend on all the senators, not just the majority because having come from the minority, it would seem that the foreign affairs committee chairmanship should go to a minority member," he said.

Magsaysay said he was more interested in the finance committee, which Sen. John Osmeña promised to relinquish.

Other candidates for the same committee were Senate President Pro Tempore Manny Villar and Sen. Ralph Recto.

There are still no takers for the committee on local governments, which Osmeña also promised to give up.

Some Senate observers said Recto and Sen. Francis Pangilinan were among the candidates for foreign relations chair.

Jaworski's vote

Yesterday, Jaworski maintained that he would vote for the recognition of the "rump session" even after moving to the other side.

"I call on the present majority to realize that there were four administration-certified bills and we hope that they would consider recognizing the June 3 to 6 session," Jaworski said.

He appealed to the majority "to save the tarnished image of the Senate for everybody's sake."

"It is their call. I appeal to the greater wisdom of these people," he said.

Jaworski was author of two bills—the Free Patent Law and Anti-Chainsaw Act—which were passed during the "rump session." The other bills passed were the Absentee Voting Law and the law creating the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

But administration Sen. Joker Arroyo was quick to strike down any possibility that the "rump session" would be recognized.

"As far as the administration is concerned, we will ratify the proceedings (when Senate President Franklin Drilon adjourned the session sine die)," Arroyo said.

He underscored that the "rump session" was void *ab initio* (from the beginning)."

"That is why we will ignore it," Arroyo said.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said there was no need to conduct a special election for the Senate seat that Ople will vacate.

"Holding elections for a two-year seat for example in the Senate would be much too expensive," Pimentel said.

"I think that's the reason why the probabilities are we will not call an election for the vacancies but we will call for additional seats to be elected in 2004," he said. ***With reports from Rocky Nazareno and Cynthia Balana***

CAP plan holders worried

From page A1

The deficiency indicates that, based on certain assumptions of actuarial or statistical experts, CAP will not be able to settle all its obligations to plan holders in the event these all become payable today.

Betrayed

Jane, an editor of a Metro Manila-based newspaper, said she felt betrayed by CAP because the trust fund deficiency seemed to show that the funds entrusted to the pre-need firm were not managed well.

She said that when she and her husband were still struggling to make a living they set aside a big portion of their earnings to buy a CAP education plan for one of their three children.

"My husband is optimistic that CAP will somehow find a way to be bailed out, but I'm not that optimistic especially now it's out in the open," Jane said.

Ellen, who bought a CAP education plan when she was just four months pregnant, said that she was very concerned about the news on CAP.

She had set aside more than the 13th month pay she had received every year for five years just to finish the payments.

"I have to be optimistic. I have no choice but to be optimistic," she said.

The press office of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) was deluged with calls yesterday from past CAP plan holders complaining about the "black propaganda" allegedly being waged by this paper against CAP.

One woman from Cebu, who talked to a reporter in the press office, said that it was not true that CAP was in trouble because she was able to send her son and daughter to college because of funding from CAP.

Indeed, many beneficiaries finished college thanks to CAP. The pre-need company has paid more than P6.5 billion in tuition covering almost a hundred thousands students, of whom some 40,000 had finished college.

CAP's P2.5-billion trust fund deficiency, however, is the largest deficiency in any pre-need firm in the country today.

Rep. Jesli Lapus said pre-need firms should undergo a "test" to see whether they were liquid enough.

At this point, regulators do not know if the pre-need firms are just using funds from current sales to pay maturing claims of plan holders who purchased their plans many years ago, according to Lapus.

The funds from past plan holders that were supposed to fund their claims might have been lost due to bad investments.

Senate probe

In Silay City, Negros Occidental, Senate President Franklin Drilon said he would file a resolution calling for an inquiry into CAP's trust fund deficiency.

Politics will not play a role in the Senate inquiry even if a brother of President Macapagal-Arroyo sits on the board of CAP, according to Drilon. Diosdado Macapagal Jr. is one of the 11 directors of the country's biggest pre-need company.

"The President's brother is there because of his expertise. He is a financial guy and there is no politics here," said Drilon, who was in Silay City for the groundbreaking ceremonies of its Hall of Justice.

At present, pre-need companies are under the supervision of the SEC and not the Insurance Commission.

Drilon said the inquiry would determine if there was a need to pass a law in order to transfer the power to regulate pre-need companies from the SEC to the Insurance Commission for closer supervision.

In the House of Representatives, Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers said the Insurance Commission and not the SEC should regulate the operations of pre-need companies.

"I suggest that rules governing the pre-need industry be made clearer and its implementation, unfaltering," Barbers said in a statement.

Drilon said he would also call for transparency in the audit of books of companies invested with public interest.

He said pre-need companies, banks, and publicly listed firms "are invested with public interest."

"Corporate responsibility is important, especially in the face of the Enron and Worldcom collapse in the United States. I don't want a similar incident to happen in our country," he said. ***With reports from Christine Avendaño in Manila and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

THANK YOU, MRS. PRESIDENT!

We THANK you Mrs. President for telling OWWA Administrator Wilhelm Soriano to shut up.

For a long time, we have been demoralized.

Demoralized by the fact that in the Department of Labor and Employment, there are two different salary levels, the salary level for employees of OWWA and the other for the rest of the DOLE employees. The OWWA Administrator receives P612,950.00 yearly while his counterpart DOLE Undersecretary gets P398,375.00 annually.

Demoralized by the fact that Administrator Wilhelm Soriano has allowed OWWA employees to move around the provinces together with Bayan Muna, COURAGE and Migrante to campaign against the DOLE leadership. Saan ho ba nanggagaling ang ginagastos nila? Bakit ho puwedeng gamitin ang vehicles, fax machines at facilities ng OWWA? Bakit pinapayagan ni Administrator Soriano na mag-rally sila during office hours? Extension na ba ang OWWA at mga empleyado nito ng militanteng kaliwa? Sino ba ang sumasakay kanino?

Demoralized by the way Administrator Soriano drops your name, Madam President, insinuating that you have encouraged his tirades because of his political clout.

Demoralized that our Overseas Workers' Welfare Fund remains at the P1 billion level because Administrator Soriano has been irresponsible and injudicious in the use of this fund which should rightfully benefit our OFWs.

Demoralized that money, time and effort are being used to disparage you, Madam President and Secretary Sto. Tomas at a time when we can use fewer termites in the government.

We THANK you Mrs. President for telling Administrator Soriano to shut up.

May we also respectfully request you to ask Administrator Soriano to:

1. Submit a public accounting of the funds that have been collected from our OFWs and to let the public know how they have used this fund;
2. Account for the channeling of OFW contributions to a private corporation called OWWA Employees, Inc., at the rate of 40% of the annual payroll which amounts to more than P200 million; and
3. Submit a pay rationalization plan similar to those being asked of GOCCs which have paid benefits beyond what is allowed by law.

Mayroon palang pagkakataong "crime pays"—mabuti pa 'yong hindi sumusunod sa batas, nagkakaroon ng in-house car plan, housing loans at mga benepisyong hanggang sa panaginip lang namin matitikman.

Suportado namin kayo sa DIGMAAN laban sa KATIWALIAN, PAGMAMALABIS at PAGSASAMANTALA.

Umpisahan po natin ito laban sa mga gumagamit ng dugo at pawis ng OFWs para sa kanilang pansariling kapakanan.

Thank you, Mrs. President for listening to the silent majority at the DOLE and the OFW communities all over the world.

Binayaran sa pamamagitan ng abuloy ng mga Empleyado ng DOLE at OFWs.

ADVT

RP seeks reprieve for Filipinos in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR—The Philippine Embassy on Thursday appealed to Malaysian authorities to extend an amnesty period for Filipino illegal immigrants to return home.

Ambassador Jose Brillantes said he feared the large number of returning Filipinos could not be transported back in time before the end of the amnesty, which runs from March 21 to July 31, as ferry services were lacking.

"The usual number of vehicles we have for transporting returning immigrants is not enough, and we are anticipating a larger than usual response," he said.

"We are not saying anything with respect to the government's policy of the amnesty period, but we are merely expressing a hope, considering the situation at hand," Brillantes said.

He said more than 60,000 Filipinos had responded to the amnesty, which allows illegals to leave Malaysia without being prosecuted, adding that "a larger number will come forward in the next week."

"The numbers have been much larger than the average traffic and we encourage our citizens to take advantage of this (amnesty) before the time is up," he said.

Private business

Brillantes said the Philippines had not indicated if it would step in and provide additional modes of transportation, adding the responsibility was left more to individual ferry operators.

"At the moment, our government will not step in, because it is a private business concern," he said.

Brillantes said the embassy hoped for an extension of "one to two weeks" to ferry all illegal workers back to Zamboanga.

"We hope that even if there is no extension, the Malaysian government will at least consider those who register during the period, but can only leave after the amnesty ends, and not punish them," he said.

Under new immigration laws, effective Aug. 1, anyone found guilty of illegal entry or harboring illegal immigrants would face a mandatory six months in jail and/or up to six strokes of the cane.

AFP

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Dining set for six (6) includes (1) DT2710RWA51 "Santos" dining table & (6) DC3567FIA51 "Dakota" turning legs chair imported from Malaysia

ᴾ904 12 months
Niobe rectangular coffee table imported from Malaysia

PONTE #237 04-4COD 4-drawer chest & (1) 05-MF (S) mirror imported from Malaysia
ᴾ1375 12 months

ᴾ4075 12 months
SIMMONS #C8475-53
"Caroline" queen sleeper imported from USA

Ponte #237 bedroom set
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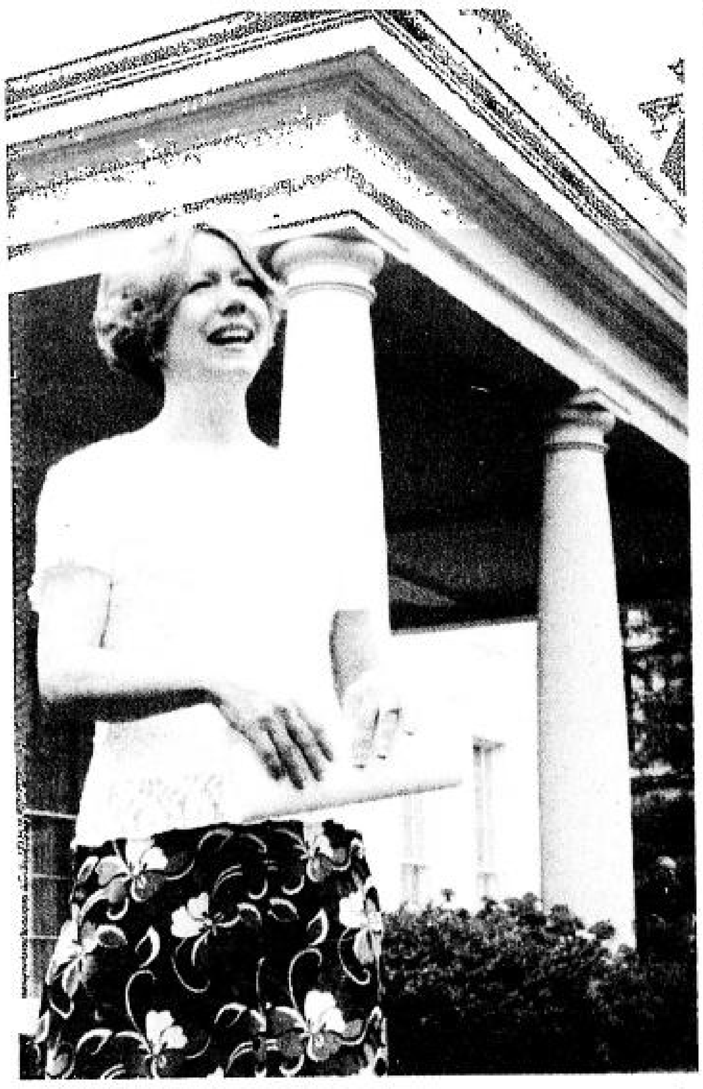
Bush invites Burnhams to White House



WHITE House visitor Gracia Burnham looks sunny as a summer's day after meeting US President George W. Bush. REUTERS

From page A1

jungle, are criminals and deserve to be punished," Gracia said.

White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer said Bush wanted to offer comfort, condolences and thanks to the Burnham family.

"(Gracia) has been a marvelously strong and optimistic woman with a wonderful, upbeat outlook," Fleischer said. "I think the President's going to enjoy just putting his arm around her, spending some time with her."

Gracia and her late husband Martin, both missionaries, were abducted along with another American and a number of Filipinos from a resort in the province of Palawan in May last year. The other American, Guillermo Sobero, was killed months later. The Filipinos escaped or were released supposedly after their families paid ransom.

The Burnhams and Filipino nurse Edibora Yap were the last hostages held by the Abu Sayyaf, whose leaders were indicted Tuesday. Their ordeal ended last month when the Philippine military mounted a rescue attempt in the province of Zamboanga del Norte.

Only Gracia survived the military operation. She was shot in the thigh.

Considered a top target in the US war against terrorism, the Abu Sayyaf is said to have ties to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.

More than 1,000 US troops have been training Philippine forces in anti-terror tactics under the RP-US Balikatan military exercise.

Jurisdiction

In Manila, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday said the Philippine government would insist on its jurisdiction over the five most wanted Abu Sayyaf leaders as "a matter of procedure."

He said that since the five men had committed capital crimes, no one among them would be turned over to the US government because they would be executed here.

"(The US government) can insist. But we can also insist that we don't have to hand over the Abu Sayyaf leaders (to the United States)," he said.

Bunye, however, said this extreme situation was not to be expected given the friendly ties between the two countries.

"As a matter of procedure, we will insist on the Philippines having jurisdiction over the trial of the Abu Sayyaf terrorists," he said.

But he said it would be a different case if the five Abu Sayyaf leaders were caught within US jurisdiction or in third countries with which the United States had extradition treaties.

MARTIN BURNHAM

"Then (the US) is perfectly within its prerogatives to try the terrorists," he said.

No legal complication

In Zamboanga City, Western Mindanao State Prosecutor Ricardo Cabaron Jr. said the indictment of the five Abu Sayyaf leaders did not contradict Philippine laws.

"There is actually no legal complication considering that the Philippine government is also going after the Abu Sayyaf terrorists," he said. "Our criminal laws, which are similar to those of the United States, provide for a corresponding penalty for the offenses they committed."

Cabaron said the United States had the right to punish criminals who offended its citizens.

"The US also has its own laws, which provide a penalty for offenders who commit criminal violations against its citizens," he said. "So there is actually no conflict or legal complication in the move of the US government to file charges against the Abu Sayyaf leaders."

The regional prosecutor's office here has filed similar charges against the Abu Sayyaf leaders before the Regional Trial Court of Sulu.

Cabaron said the next move of the United States would be to request extradition for the Abu Sayyaf leaders once they are arrested.

He said the decision would largely depend on the Philippine government. But he quickly added that he would recommend the holding of the trial in the Philippines.

"We will insist that these people be tried under Philippine laws before they are turned over to America, if the US intends to prosecute them," he said. ***Reports from AP; Carlito Pablo in Manila; Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Politicians laud Ople; militants call him 'American boy'

From page A1

Support Agreement (MLSA).

But Senate President Franklin Drilon commended the President for extending her hand to the opposition senator by inviting him to join her Cabinet.

"The Senate will be deprived of the wisdom of Senator Ople's foreign policy advocacies, but then the whole country will probably benefit from his years of experience in the Senate," Drilon said.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said that while he was saddened that the ranks of the opposition in the chamber had dwindled with Ople's decision to accept the DFA post, "I'm personally happy for the country because Ka Blas is a brilliant man and a good public official."

"The only sad part of his appointment is the dark agenda of political piracy," Angara added.

But Gratela said it was Ople, as labor minister of then President Ferdinand Marcos, who designed the Philippines' "Labor Export Program" in 1974.

"He was the one who instigated the export of Filipino workers—a program that has intensified through the years and resulted in countless abuses against overseas Filipino workers and their families," Gratela said.

Blatant affront

Ocampo said that Ople's appointment was a "blatant affront to the gains of Edsa II," and that his "unabashed pro-American stance provides a fitting mirror" of the President's "pro-US foreign policy."

"Ople's record of political opportunism and remorseless servility to the Marcoses and Erap (Joseph Estrada) are more publicly known than his supposed contributions to labor and the development of Philippine foreign policy," Ocampo said in a statement.

He added that Ople's appointment would ensure the "smooth sailing" of the MLSA as well as "the United States' continued interference in Philippine affairs."

Echoing this observation, Rosales said the approval of the MLSA was now a sure thing because Ople "traditionally bows to US policies."

She said the President was rushing the approval of the agreement—which allows the US government to put up storage facilities here—before the scheduled arrival next month of US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Wilson Fortaleza, president of the militant group Sanlakas, also said the MLSA was a "done deal" with Ople at the DFA.

"A rabid pro-US dog like Blas Ople is (the President's) perfect gift for Uncle Sam," he said.

Fortaleza also said Ople had a consistent record of subservience to US interests, and noted his staunch support for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade that was sponsored by Ms Macapagal during her term as senator, and the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement.

"We do not expect anything new from Ople but more US intervention in both political and economic concerns at department level," Fortaleza said. "For one, we expect him to rubber-stamp the MLSA when Powell arrives in the country."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, however, said Ople's appointment had nothing to do with the MLSA. "(The President) made no reference to the immediate signing of the (document), so I guess we'll have to leave it at that," he told reporters.

The US Embassy's Kelly said the US government was "familiar with Senator Ople's performance" as chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations.

She said Ople's earlier statement that the Macapagal administration consider declaring US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone *persona non grata* for his remarks on corruption in the Philippines had "no bearing at all" on the senator's appointment to the DFA and on RP-US relations.

Besides, Kelly said, Ople retracted his statement after reading the transcript of Ricciardone's speech before the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines earlier this month.

"The US government welcomes the appointment of Senator Ople as foreign affairs secretary," she said. "We are looking forward to working with him."

No rough sailing

At his regular press briefing yesterday, Bunye said, "Secretary Ople will just have to wind (up) some of his affairs in the Senate, and immediately after that he will be ready to assume his post (at the DFA)."

Bunye said Malacañang did not expect rough sailing for Ople before the Commission on Appointments: "All the senators who are members of the CA have a very high regard for (him). So it would be fair to assume that he would not have any difficulty as far as his confirmation is concerned."

Drilon also said he saw "no hitches" in Ople's confirmation.

Asked why the President did not choose anyone from the ruling Lakas for the DFA post, Drilon said it was not only a question of qualifications but also the trust and confidence of the appointing authority in the nominee.

"This is a judgment that she made and we have to respect it," he said.

Drilon defended Ople from the accusation of being "pro-American."

"Before nationalism became a byword in our country, Senator Ople was at the forefront of the nationalists' movement," Drilon said in Silay City. "(He) was even tagged as a communist before. Now he is being tagged as pro-American."

OPLE: Jeered and cheered

Opposition Sen. John Osmeña said no one could dispute that Ople was qualified for the DFA post.

"I don't think anyone can argue that he's not competent," Sen. Manuel Villar said. "We respect the President's decision and we welcome Senator Ople to the administration. He'll be an asset to the administration and a big loss to the Senate."

Senators Ralph Recto and Robert Barbers also aired words of praise for Ople.

Good luck

At the House, Minority Leader Carlos Padilla and Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen said the opposition expected Ople to accept the DFA post and to do a good job.

"I'm wishing him the best of luck and we're confident he'll succeed," Padilla said in a phone interview. "Except that people will miss his services in the Senate where he had a covenant with the people until 2004."

Padilla said that from Ople's body language during the opposition's workshop-seminar last week in Clark, Pampanga, it was obvious that he was considering accepting Malacañang's offer.

"We are happy in some way because (the President's decision to appoint Ople) is an indication that the opposition is not wanting in good men and women to run the country," he said.

But he said he hoped that Ople "would not be another Tito Guingona."

It was a reference to Vice President Teofisto Guingona, who was pressured to relinquish the foreign affairs portfolio because of policy differences with the President.

In a separate interview, Dilangalen said Ople must have accepted the post because of "so much pressure from groups who want him to be at the DFA." ***With reports from Christine Herrera and Carlito Pablo in Manila; Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Angara helped Jawo restructure PNB loan, says Joker

From page A1

In a statement, Angara said, "Jaworski should have clarified the issues related to the PNB loan head-on and not blame the opposition for the news report."

"He should answer the news reports and issue the necessary clarifications, and not invoke leaks and supposed black propaganda," Angara said.

He also hinted that Arroyo, who was PNB chair from 1986 to 1991, might have even had a hand in leaking information on the loan to media.

"An administration senator with so much idle time to spend and is overly intimate with the affairs of the PNB probably leaked the documents to the Macapagal administration to destroy the opposition in the Senate," Angara said.

But Arroyo said Angara actually "helped Jaworski with the loan only for him to use the details of the account against Jaworski in the event that they part ways."

Confidentiality rule

Arroyo said Angara might have violated "confidentiality rules" in banking for divulging the details of the loan account.

"That's why (Angara) is very, very familiar (with the loan) because he helped craft the restructuring," Arroyo said.

He said "credit should even be given to Jaworski for being honest about his loan and for not using his position to squeeze out of it."

"Now, he's being condemned by Angara," Arroyo said.

Jaworski said he did not even know that the loan was restructured because, at that time, he had already dissolved his partnership with Doroteo Gaerlan.

"That's why I was offended. I might have pained (Angara) when I went to the administration but it was the calling at that time—the Senate impasse, my family," Jaworski said.

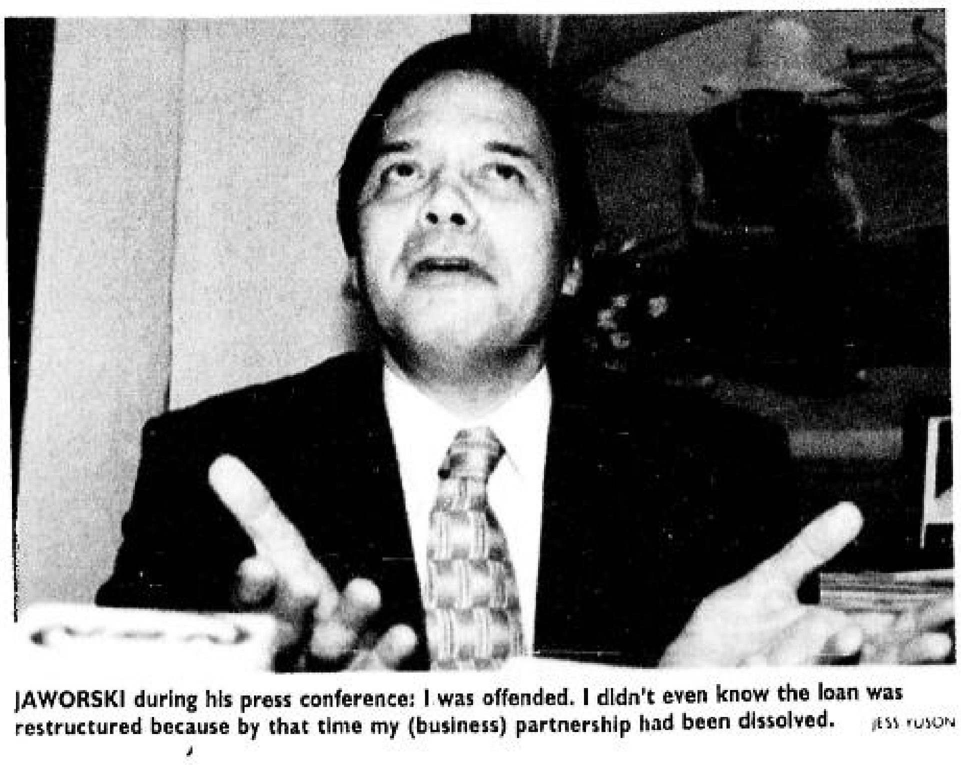
Jaworski said he and Gaerlan borrowed P108 million from PNB in 1997 for the purchase of a tanker when the exchange rate was pegged at P26 to a dollar.

"But we have to admit, the business climate turned sour after that and a lot of businesses went down," he said.

Jaworski said the loan was "fully collateralized by the vessel itself, and the business of Gaerlan."

"I don't even know where the tanker is now. I don't have anything to hide," he said.

ARROYO: Angara helped Jaworski with the loan only to use the account against him. JESS YUSON



JAWORSKI during his press conference: I was offended. I didn't even know the loan was restructured because by that time my (business) partnership had been dissolved. JESS YUSON

ANGARA: Jaworski should have clarified the PNB loan head-on and not blame the opposition. JESS YUSON

Nagkakaisang Mamamayan.
Matatag na mga Bayan.
Isang Malakas na Bansa.
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PANUNUMPA ng mga punong-bayan para sa tapat na

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Kaming 1,496 punong-bayan na kasapi ng Liga ng mga Muni-sipyo sa Pilipinas (League of Municipalities of the Philippines) ay sumusuporta kay Pangulong Gloria Macapagal Arroyo sa kanyang programa para sa isang Matatag na Republika. Makakamtan natin ito sa pamamagitan ng malakas na Pamahalaang Lokal na kayang mag-sulong tungo sa kapayapaan, katatagang pang-politika, at kaunlarang pang-ekonomiya.

Kaming mga punong-bayan sa pangunguna ng 79 chapter presidents na pangulo sa bawa't lalawigan, ay nananawagan sa lahat para sa pagkakaisa, kapayapaan at kaunlaran.

Amin ding isusulong ang programa para sa isang makabuluhan at tunay na pamamahalang pangkasarinlan katulad ng mga sumusunod:

1. **Sustained Delivery of Basic Services**. Tuloy-tuloy na pagbi-bigay ng pangunahing serbisyo katulad ng health care, social services, agricultural modernization at sustainable environment.

2. **Improved Collection of Taxes.** Lalong pinagandang koleksi-yon ng buwis para panustos sa mga proyekto at iba't ibang prog-rama.

3. **Intensified Peace and Order Campaign**. Pag-iibayo ng kam-panya para sugpuin ang mga kalaban ng pamahalaan (kidnapers, druglords, smugglers, etc.) sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng mas malawak na kapangyarihan bilang kasangga ng National Police Commission sa pagpapatupad ng batas.

4. **Reducing Red Tapes**. Pagbawas ng red tape sa pamahalaang lokal sa pamamagitan ng one-stop shops sa lahat ng transakyon gaya ng business permits at municipal licenses at graft-free program para sa pagbili ng mga gamit at supplies.

5. **Equitable Access to Education**. Pagtatatag ng programang pang-edukasyon para panlaban sa kahirapan sa pamamagitan ng pagtatayo ng school buildings at malawakang paggamit ng mga maliliit na magsasaka at mangingisda sa municipal waters at agra-rian reform lands.

6. **Focus on Mindanao Development**. Pagsulong para sa kaunla-ran ng Mindanao sa pamamagitan ng infrastructures, agricultural modernization, industrial estates at power generation upang lumaki ang investments, food productions, bumaba ang singil sa kuryente at magkaroon ng hanapbuhay ang mamamayan.

7. **Equal Opportunities for Poor LGUs**. Pagbibigay ng local equity upang makakuha ng pondo mula sa iba't ibang international funding agencies upang makatulong sa pagpapaunlad ng kabuhayan ng mamamayan lalo at higit ng mga bayang 4th, 5th at 6th class.

8. **Promotion of Transparency**. Promosyon ng transparency, public accountability at democratization sa pamamagitan ng pagpa-pasigla sa civil society, NGOs, POs at cause-oriented groups.

9. **Harmonization of Local Autonomy**. Pagsasabuhay ng tunay na local autonomy na naaayon sa itinakda ng Saligang-Batas at alin-sunod sa mga Prinsipiyong nagtataguyod sa kapakanan ng kalika-san, karapatan ng mga mamamayan at iba pa katulad ng inter-local government cooperation at partnership.

10. **Replication of Best Practices**. Pagtataguyod ng mga mata-gumpay na programa ng pamahalaang lokal upang maging huwaran ng ibang Pamayanan na naglalayong itaguyod ang maayos at tapat na pamamahala.

The municipal mayors vow to start building a "Strong Republic," block by block, beginning today in immediate response to the clarion call of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo with sights focused at curbing, if not eradicating graft and corruption, establishing a peaceful environment and delivering the basic needs of the people on time.

LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES
OF THE PHILIPPINES

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Grand Slam keys Reds victory

CINCINNATI—Todd Walker hit a grand slam and Brandon Larson had a three-run homer Wednesday as the Cincinnati.Reds rallied for a 10-5 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates. Brian Moehler (1-0), obtained Tuesday in a five-player trade with Detroit, sent a murmur through the crowd of 24,910 by getting rocked in his first inning. *AP*

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

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OVERTIME VICTORY

Blue Eagles outlast Tamaraws

By Dennis U. Eroa

GAMES TOMORROW (Rizal Coliseum)
2 p.m.—UE vs NU
4 p.m.—UST vs La Salle

SWINGMAN Larry Fonacier made the big baskets as Ateneo outlasted Far Eastern University in overtime, 73-68, to force a share of the lead with titleholder La Salle last night in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Hardly a factor in regulation, Fonacier clicked in extra time as he buried eight points, including two straight triples, which spelled doom to the Tamaraws, 71-66, 1:47 remaining.

Ateneo, thus, stretched its winning run to three, same with La Salle. FEU, using its tall frontline to the hilt, dominated the game right from the start but could not put away the hard-fighting Blue Eagles, who also got good numbers from Wesley Gonzales, Rich Alvarez, Lewis Tenorio and Enrico Villanueva.

In the first game, Alwyn Espiritu stood tallest as he powered the University of Santo Tomas to a 92-75 win over University of the Philippines. Jay-R Reyes, the Maroons' much-heralded 6-foot-7 rookie, found the goings rough in the shaded lane and failed to score. Sniper Mike Bravo carried the fight for UP with 33 points.

"Larry (Fonacier) did a tremendous job," said Ateneo coach Joel Banal. The win also meant that Banal and his family will get a free lunch from his younger brother and FEU coach Koy. For most of the game, Ateneo and its loyal followers stood in shock as the Tamaraws defended superbly, while attacking the hoop relentlessly.

Ryan Rizada gave FEU its biggest lead, 31-17, but Ateneo did not crumble. Gonzales exploded with 11 points and Tenorio's three-pointer gave the Eagles the upper hand, 51-50.

The 6-foot-5 Villanueva, who had trouble containing FEU's 6-foot-8 Don Yabut and the Tamaraws' double-teaming defense, sent the game into overtime with two free throws, 60-60. Mark Isip missed FEU the victory when his buzzer-beating banked shot rimmed out.

Fonacier, 6-foot-3, then took charge. Egged on by the crowd, Fonacier started his strong shows with two free throws, before sinking two triples which proved decisive in the exciting battle.

Scores:

First game:

UST 92—Espiritu 20, Geilg 15, Vizcarra 12, De Guzman 12, Baguio 10, Raterta 6, Manansala 5, Villamin 4, Del Rosario 3, Hubalde 2, Luanzon 2.

UP 75—Bravo 33, Santos 10, Celo 9, Almeda 6, Ferrer 5, Arnaiz 4, Cervantes 4, Nunag 4, Tabigue 0, Reyes 0.

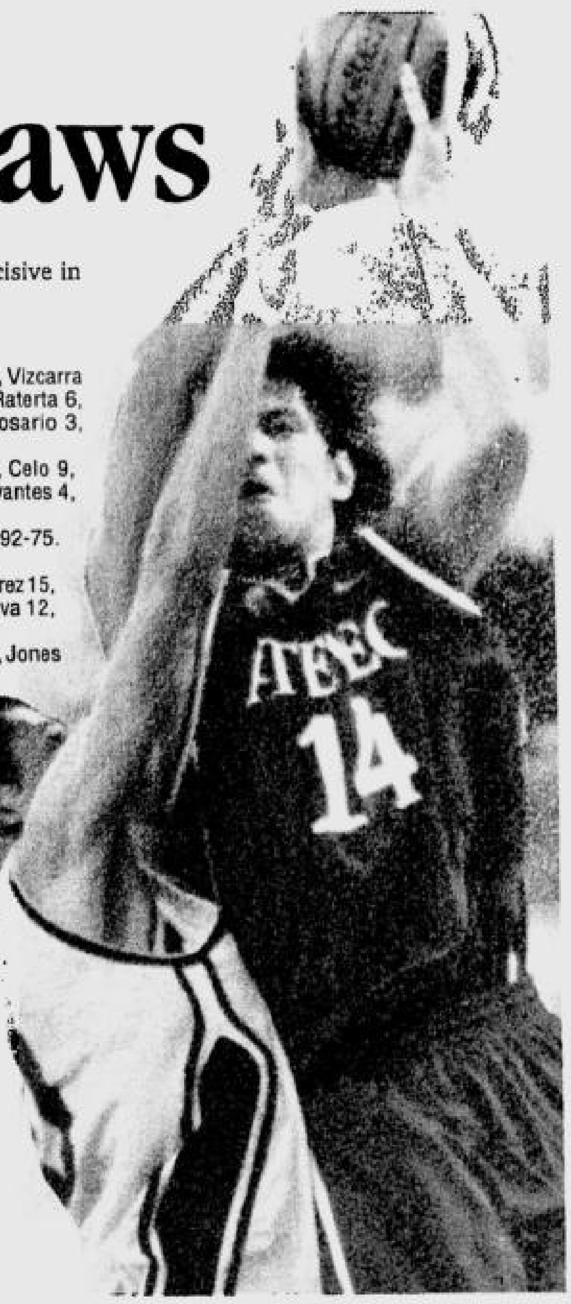
Quarters: 34-21, 56-46, 77-58, 92-75.

Second game:

ATENEO 73—Gonzales 16, Alvarez 15, Fonacier 14, Tenorio 13, Villanueva 12, Del Rosario 3, Chia 0, Cruz 0.

FEU 68—Santos 15, Sinco 12, Jones 9, Isip 7, Rizada 7, Yabut 6, Zablan 6, Miranda 6, Garcia 0.

Quarters: 11-18, 29-35, 47-49, 60-60 (reg), 73-68.



ATENEO'S Enrico Villanueva (right) tries to score against FEU's Don Yabut during their UAAP game yesterday. The Eagles won, 73-68, in overtime. ROMY HOMILLADA

FedEx gets Meneses; P'foods lose anew

By June Navarro

GAMES TODAY (Ynares Center)
5:05 p.m.—San Miguel vs Shell
7:05 p.m.—Selecta-RP vs Red Bull

FROM now on, Vergel Meneses will display his aerial acts for the FedEx Express.

Bereft of a take-charge guy, the Express yesterday acquired Meneses from Barangay Ginebra in exchange for one of their first-round draft picks next season.

"We are a new team yearning for veteran blood and Meneses fills that need in our team," said FedEx team manager Lito Alvarez.

Alvarez, who also sits as president of Air-freight 2100, the sole franchisee of FedEx in the country, said the swap was consummated after he and Ginebra board representative Jun Cabalan agreed on the blockbuster trade.

"I believe Meneses can contribute a lot to this team and make an immediate impact on our Commissioner's Cup campaign," added Alvarez.

Known as the "Aerial Voyager," the 33-year-old Meneses will receive a maximum salary of P500,000 until 2004.

"We welcome Meneses with open arms," said FedEx Chair Bert Lina. "He still has a good number of years left in him and I hope he will end his career in a blaze of glory with the FedEx Express."

Meanwhile, FedEx Express pushed Purefoods closer to the brink of elimination with an 85-76 triumph last night in the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Caruncho Gym in Pasig City.

Wynne Arboleda put order on the floor while Jarmaine Walker and Frantz Pierre-Louis delivered at crunchtime as the Express tied Shell, Alaska and San Miguel Beer at 3-3.

FedEx's victory spoiled the debut of former Harlem Globetrotter Warren Rosegreen, whose presence failed to lift the Hotdogs out of a slump.

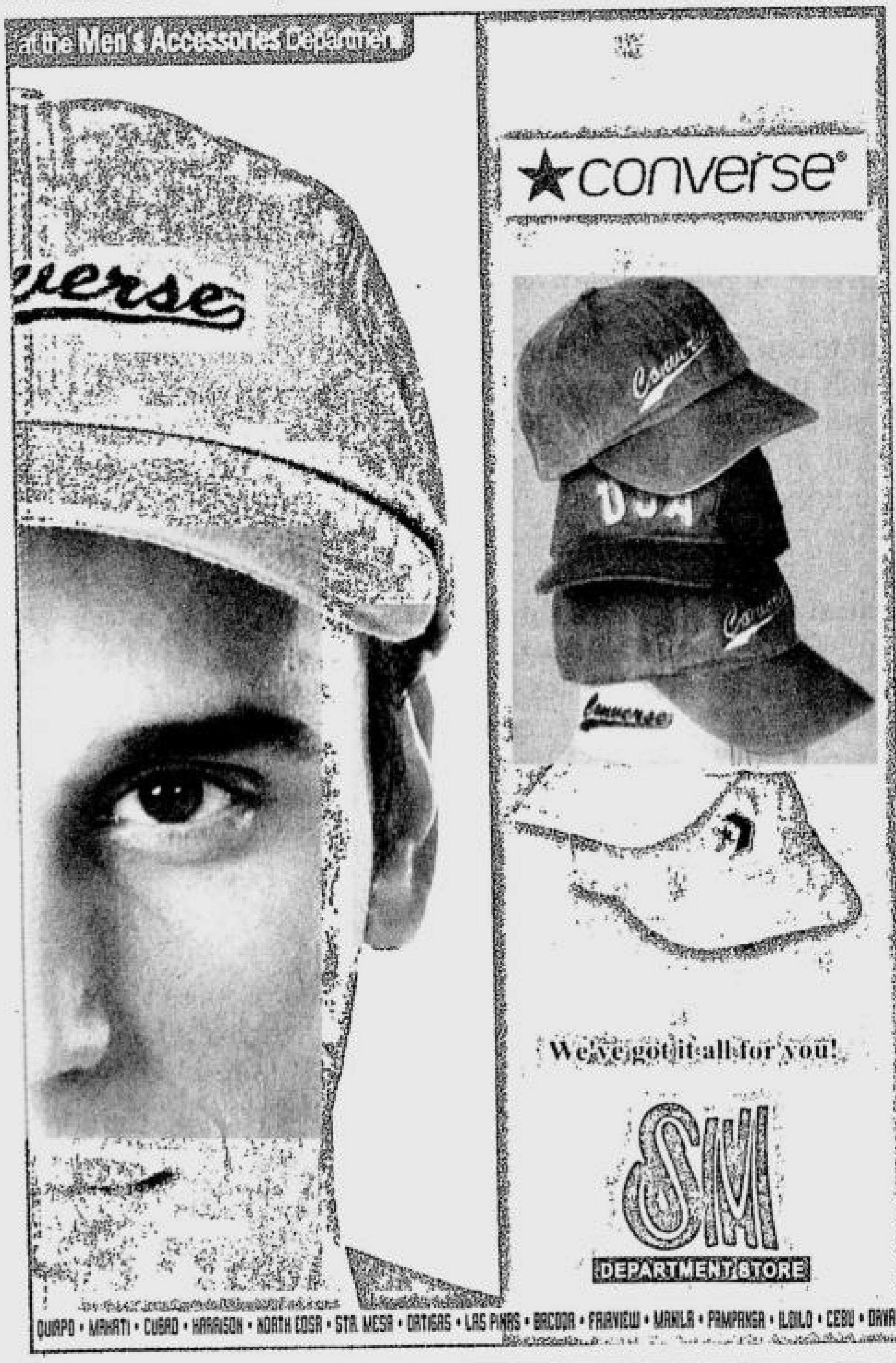
The Hotdogs absorbed their fifth straight defeat for a pitiful 1-6 record.

Scores:

FEDEX 85—Walker 32, Pierre-Louis 26, Arboleda 13, Ritualo 8, Pumaren 4, De Ocampo 3, Codiñera 1.

PUREFOODS 76—Morris 28, Rosegreen 22, Evangelista 12, Patrimonio 7, Raymundo 4, Yap 3, Mendiola 0, Balingit 0.

Quarters: 26-27, 45-44, 62-64, 85-76.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SPORTSWATCH

Armstrong going strong

LA PLAGNE, France —So far, Lance Armstrong has run a near flawless Tour de France, while his rivals have been something of a disappointment. The biggest challenger for the title, Spain's Joseba Beloki, tried repeatedly to surprise Armstrong in the mountains, but was caught up each time, and often thrashed. After Wednesday's 16th stage from Les Deux-Alpes to La Plagne, he trailed the Texan by 5 minutes and 6 seconds in the race standings.

3 gold medals for RP

BANGKOK—The Philippines bagged three gold medals to dominate the 2002 World Cup Muaythai championships which ended here Wednesday. Brent Velasco, Bryant Bagsiyad and Rogelio Garganera outclassed, their respective rivals to clinch golds in the tourney which lured fighters from 49 other countries. Velasco, the 5-foot-4 pride and joy of Baguio City, came up with one of his most impressive performances to whip his tall Russian foe, Soldvev Gewady, and retain the 54-kilogram title he won two years ago.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla notched 556 points to rule the standard pistol event in the 16th Seasa (Southeast Asian Shooting Association) championships in Jakarta, Indonesia.

RACING TIPS

At San Lazaro By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Always on D Go 2. Shuttle's Magic 3. Deputy Parade 4. Hinobaan Boy
Race 2—1. Byeboom 2. Perfect Date 3. Musikero 4. Speed Mountain 5. West Swinger
Race 3—1. Oh Diva 2. Ticket to Fame 3. Steel Wheel
Race 4—1. Southern Skies 2. Samahan 3. Silver Gray 4. Moving Target
Race 5—1. High Octane 2. Bohemyo 3. Doctor Steve 4. The Bronx
Race 6—1. Harvesting Game 2. Search for Gold 3. Flirt 4. Power and Might 5. Bold Advance 6. Cristel Jay
Race 7—1. Golden Disc 2. Divine Diva 3. Morning Nell 4. Loose Cannon 5. Patago
Race 8—1. Jhelen 2. Impeccable 3. Maximo
Race 9—1. Thunder Speed 2. Centennial 3. Bemedalled Ruler 4. Richie Rich 5. Hong Kong Girl

Benilde tries to up winning streak

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—UPHR vs CSB (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—Letran vs Mapua (srs/jrs)

FRONTRUNNING College of St. Benilde strives to extend its unbeaten slate while Letran College and Mapua break a four-team deadlock for third today in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

After stringing up their fourth consecutive win against the Knights, 88-75, the Blazers are overwhelmingly equipped to seize a fifth straight triumph at the expense of the faltering University of Perpetual Help-Rizal Altas.

Another 37-point eruption from Sunday Salvacion would be enough to topple the Altas, who fell to 1-3 after being ambushed by the Cardinals, 73-32, on Monday.

That historic blowout massaged the egos of the Cardinals, an advantage they will try to capitalize on against Letran.

But if there's one thing the Knights should cheer about, it's the absence of playmaker Jeffrey Martin, who is serving a three-game suspension beginning with the Cardinals' clash against the Altas.

"But you can never tell. Mapua has an experienced lineup capable of beating any team in the league," said Alas, who is surrounded by a cast of proficient assistants in Dayong Mendoza, Caesar Polhen and Mel Alas.

Spring Oil favored over Builders today

DEFENDING champion Spring Cooking Oil goes up against Homer-Mercado Builders today at the start of the 4th Danny Espiritu Open Invitational Cup basketball tournament at the Makati Coliseum.

Owned by national shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla, the multi-titled Spring cagers are slightly favored over Homer Go and Jojo Mercado's Builders in the 2:30 p.m. contest.

The other opening matches pit the Pasay team of Mayor Peewee Trinidad and lawyer Tina Bernabe Carvajal against Mayor Freddie Tinga's Forward Taguig at 1 p.m. and Hartmans Siegle co-owned by Mike Ganglani, Anthony Castelo and Danny Seigle against GP Maryson-Army of George Palaran and Gen. Dionisio Santiago at 4 p.m.

Lending prestige to the cagefest is the participation of Cebu teams M. Lhuillier Pawnshop of Michelle Lhuillier and Coach Eddie Ibanez's ML-Kuwarta padala.

Alex Wang's Wangs Ball Club is also vying in the tourney sponsored by Spring Margarine, Morning Star Tours & Travel, Batang Red Bull, Sta. Lucia Realty, Alaska Milk, Purefoods, San Miguel Beer, Ginebra San Miguel, Talk N Text, Shell, Coca-Cola and FedEx and supported by Milo and adidas.

Malarayat Amateur Open deadline slated

THE FIRST Active Group Mid-Amateur Open, set for Aug. 14-16 at Mount Malarayat, will accept applicants up to Aug. 2, officials announced. Entry fee is P2,000.

Mount Malarayat Chair Tony Turalba said registration centers are at Act Tower (14th floor), 135 Gil Puyat Ave., Makati, through Noemi Delfin, at tel. 8937024.

Toti Turalba Jr., Malarayat president, said players aged from 30 to 54 are qualified to join.

"They can also call (043) 7567933 or (043) 7567932," said golf director Mike Carr.

Participants may use either their June NGAP index or IPI.

The Championship Class is for 54 holes from Aug. 14 to 16 while the other three classes are scheduled for 36 each from Aug. 15 to 16.

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CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

IN PHILIPPINE sports today there is no more patriotism. It is common knowledge that many players refuse to join national delegations if there is no money for them and, if ever they are in the team, they do not play their best, afraid of hurting themselves. In the coming Busan Asian Games for example, the country will be represented by a PBA selection composed mostly of Fil-American players, some of whom have been involved in past misdeeds. They are nothing but mercenaries, players who have—despite their misconduct—been treated lightly by PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino who merely put on kid gloves and slapped their wrists. Because of this, they have remained arrogant and abusive, looking down upon native Filipinos and showing rudeness and disrespect to higher authorities. They can't speak straight Tagalog.

That is why Francisco "Django" Bustamante is a breed apart compared to these athletes. Bustamante played with all his heart at the 2002 World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales, even though he was burdened with the death of his youngest daughter, Marielle. He is truly one in a million and deserving (not only of a slot in the national team in the Busan Asian Games), but also of the highest honor from this strife-torn government which is badly in need of heroes.

The other day, Sen. Noli de Castro filed Senate Resolution 380 commending Bustamante for his "determined effort that earned him second place at the 2002 World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales." De Castro cited in particular Bustamante's brave stand against eventual winner Earl Strickland, who beat him in an epic final match, 17-15, and his earlier victories over compatriots Antonio Lining and 1999 champion Efren "Bata" Reyes and Chinese-Taipeh's Ching Shun-yang despite his personal tragedy.

"Tunay na natatangi ang katapangan at katatagan ng loob na ipinakita ni Bustamante sa kabila ng trahedyang nangyari sa kanya," De Castro said in the vernacular. "Ang ganitong katangian ang magandang halimbawa para sa ating lahat, lalo na sa oras ng matinding kagipitan."

3-cock events feature 50 fights tonight at Pasay cockpit

PASAY City Cockpit, the busiest cockfighting center in Metro Manila even during the moulting season, presents another 3-cock event at 7 tonight with about 50 fights on tap.

At stake is P150,000, with the Dodong Group as host. Entry fee is P5,500.

Last week, *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio and Gerry Ramos of Las Piñas (KGR-18) and Henry Salumbre of Manila (FR JJ Ilog) shared the championship of the 154-entry Pasay Anniversary 5-Cock Derby, after posting five points each.

Due to the overwhelming support of derby enthusiasts, the Pasay Cockpit in cooperation with the Group of 12 Foundation will hold the "Fastest Win 3-Cock Derby" on Aug. 16. Interested parties may contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 943-1746 for other details.

Erratum

THE SEMINAR on sports physiotherapy sponsored by Saucony will end on Aug. 4, not Aug. 9 as earlier reported. The seminar is set at the Moro Lorenzo Sports Center in Ateneo.

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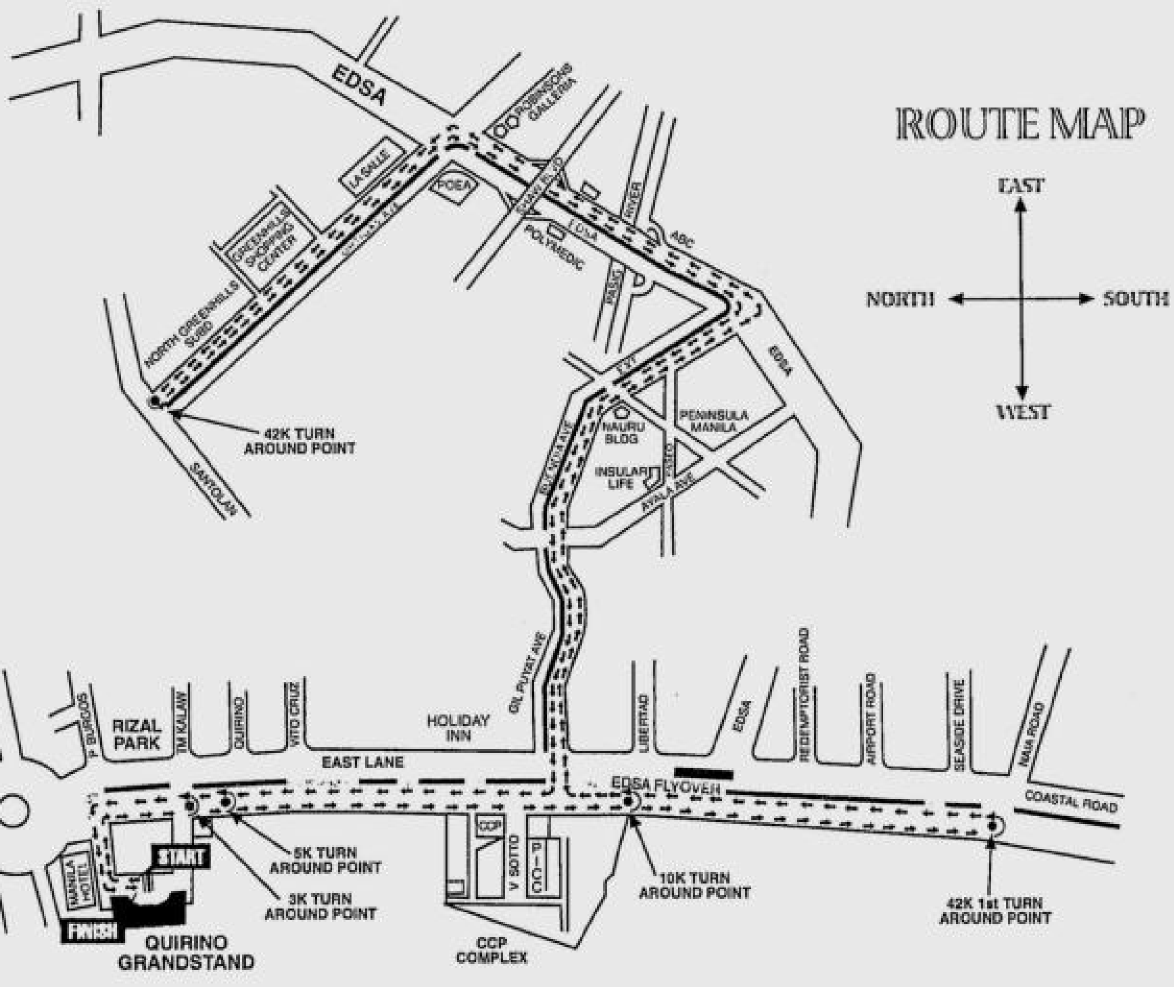
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SEASIDE DRIVE
NAIA ROAD
EDSA FLYOVER
COASTAL ROAD
MANILA HOTEL
START
FINISH
QUIRINO GRANDSTAND
5K TURN AROUND POINT
3K TURN AROUND POINT
CCP
V SOTTO
P-CC
CCP COMPLEX
10K TURN AROUND POINT
42K 1st TURN AROUND POINT
ROUTE MAP
EAST
NORTH
SOUTH
WEST

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What is half divided by half?

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How many 5-peso stamps does it take to make a dozen?

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July 28	*1st Draw*
August 11	*2nd Draw*
August 25	*3rd Draw*
September 15	*Grand Draw*

SMART
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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

'Common garbage'

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE METRO Manila Mayors Council yesterday passed a resolution declaring all objects on the sidewalks as common garbage which shall be collected and disposed of as such.

"It will cleanse the sidewalks of Metro Manila," Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando said of the resolution.

The mayors also agreed to allocate 6 percent of their annual infrastructure budgets to fund the clearing of sidewalks, according to Fernando.

Also yesterday, which was Fernando's 56th birthday, the mayors' council discussed the Unified Volume Vehicular Reduction Program, or the "color coding" scheme.

All but two of the mayors expressed support for the UVVRP's abolition, Fernando said.

The mayors of Metro Manila towns and cities would begin their clearing operations

'COMMON/ p. A24

NBI search for Martinez continues

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has not given up its search for missing businessman Mike Martinez, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said yesterday.

Martinez might become a state witness in the murder case of actress Nida Blanca if he is found alive, according to NBI sources.

"We are still looking for him but we have not received any new information about him, even from his family," Wycoco told reporters yesterday.

Also yesterday, Wycoco presented a picture of Blanca's bloodied face, which showed three broken lines on Blanca's lower left cheek. The lines were made by a blue ball pen, the NBI said.

"This information came out already before," he said. "It reinforces our theory that (Blanca's killers) were trying to make her sign a document, or were looking for documents."

NBI/ p. A24

WAZZZZUP?
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

BRGY. ALMANZA, LAS PIÑAS	MR.ROXY PRYZM	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 801.7644
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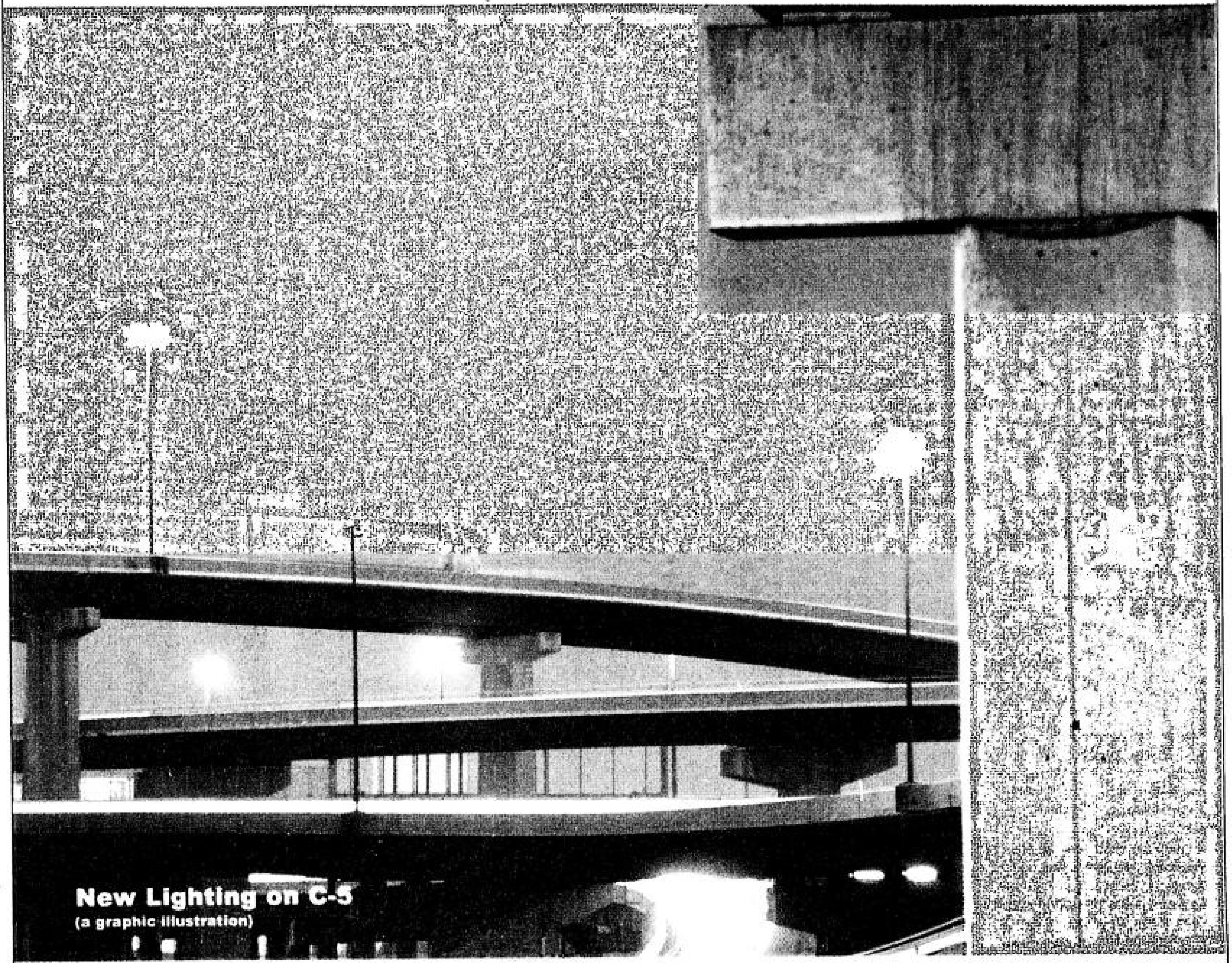

New Lighting on C-5
(a graphic illustration)

Liwanag at katahimikan sa inyong buhay mula sa pamahalaan ni Presidente Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo katulong ang PAGCOR

Who lights up your life? PAGCOR, under the Office of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, has been implementing various lighting projects along major thoroughfares throughout Metro Manila and the provinces aimed at improving law enforcement and vehicular safety.

Motorists used to avoid the dimly-lit C-5 because of vehicular mishaps, holdups and stone-throwing incidents. PAGCOR has installed new lights and replaced broken lamp posts... so now people are beginning to see C-5 in a whole new light.

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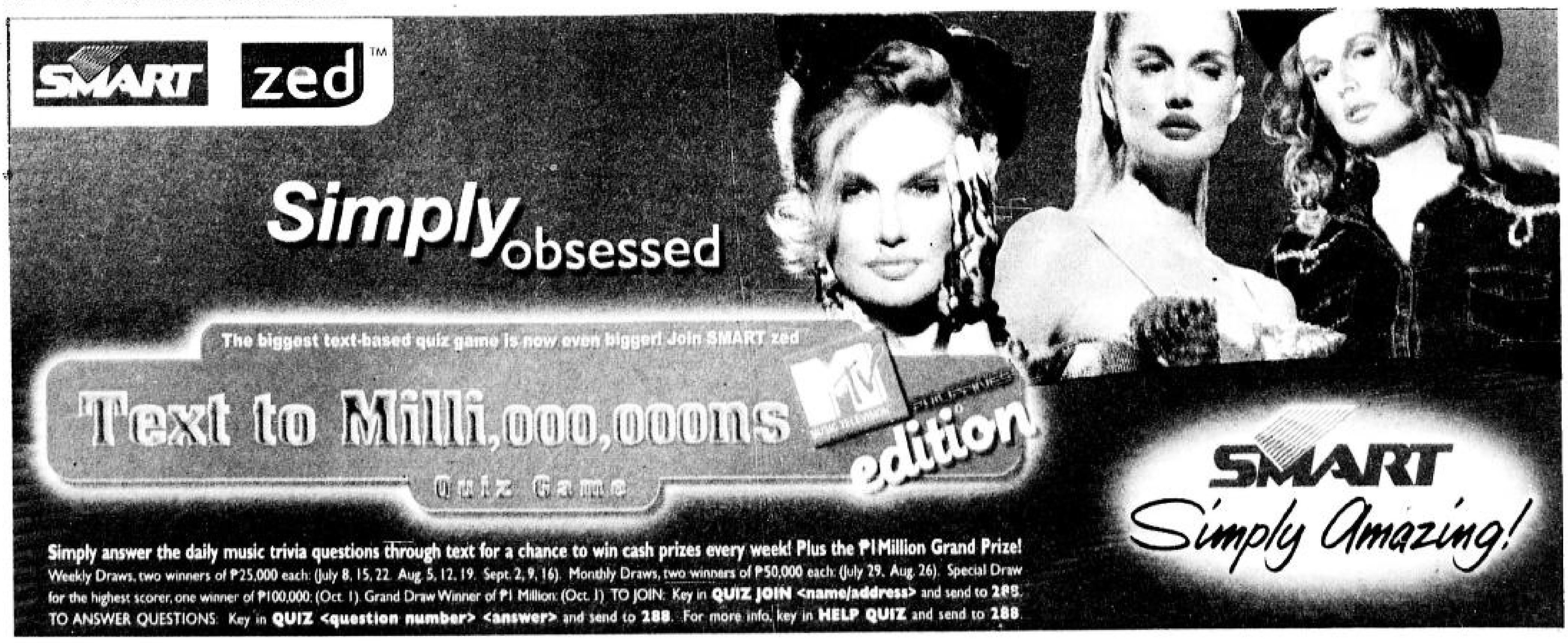

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METROBRIEFS

'Parsons' of Munti

TRICYCLE driver Graciano Reyes on Monday did a Sonny Parsons when he disarmed two robbers in Muntinlupa City. Reyes, 54, saved the day for Joseph Rey Alcala, 17, who lost his cellular phone to suspects Jayson Embile, 19, and Charlie Marasigan, 28, in Barangay Tunasan, police said. Alcala was walking on St. John Street in Sto. Nino Village when the suspects snatched his phone, police said. Reyes tried to help the victim but the suspects poked a gun at him and commandeered his tricycle. Upon reaching a railroad, Reyes said he stopped the tricycle, jumped at the suspects, and tried to wrest the gun from them. Bystanders came to the driver's rescue and arrested the suspects. On Monday, Muntinlupa officials will honor Reyes for his heroic act, which they said was similar to what former actor Sonny Parsons did when he gunned down two robbers and injured another after the suspects allegedly broke into his house in Marikina City last week.

Christian Esguerra

Shot in Holy Spirit

VERONICA Galang, 17, was killed when a neighborhood toughie shot her in the left eye in Quezon City Wednesday night. Policemen said Christopher Austria, alias "Topak," of San Roque Street, Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City, killed Galang, also of San Roque Street, at about 9:30 p.m. in a video shop on Rosario Street. Galang was playing video games when Austria came and started to tease her until they argued, police said. Austria then pulled out a handgun, shot Galang in the left eye, killing her instantly. Austria escaped.

Alcuin Papa

Robbed on 15th

QUEZON City Regional Trial Court Judge Percival Lopez lost more than P2 million to robbers who broke into his condo unit in Quezon City on Wednesday. Lopez, 69, presiding judge of QC RTC Branch 76 and a resident of Union Square Condo on 15th Avenue, told police that he and his family were not home when the robbers broke into the condo unit between 1:30 p.m. and 3:45 p.m. SPO4 Islas Castillo of the Central Police District's criminal investigation unit said when Lopez returned that day, he found his unit had been ransacked. Castillo said Lopez lost jewelry worth P2 million, $4,000 in cash and a Nokia cell phone worth P15,000.

Alcuin Papa

Murder in Sauyo

BARANGAY *tanod* Ernesto Madriaga was shot and killed by a fellow watchman who was said to be drunk yesterday morning in Quezon City. Policemen said Rodel Inducta, 30, of Lipton Street, Barangay Sauyo, Quezon City, shot Madriaga, 57, also of Sauyo Road, following an argument outside the victim's house. The two are both members of the Civilian Volunteer Organization of Barangay Sauyo, said SPO4 Delfin Aurelio of the Central Police District. Police said Madriaga was forced to pacify the drunken Inducta when the latter made a scene in front of Madriaga's house at about 2:30 a.m. Inducta left, then came back minutes later and shot Madriaga once.

Alcuin Papa

Parsons 'very, very happy' over GMA support

By Alcuin Papa

FORMER action star Sonny Parsons yesterday said he was pleased with President Macapagal-Arroyo's ordering court officials not to pursue the homicide charges filed against him for the killing of two robbers who broke into his Marikina City house on July 18.

"I'm very, very happy, and my family likewise," said Parsons, whose real name is Jose Parsons Naibula. "I feel elated that none other than the President of the land is supporting me."

Parsons, 44, said he was also happy that the President "gathered the facts before she made any comment."

"It's a good thing she did that, (now she knows) that it was self-defense," Parsons said.

The President had told reporters the other day that what Parsons did was "the right thing to do."

Ms Macapagal said Parsons' act of going after the robbers was "justified."

"It is not vigilantism," she said.

On July 18, five men broke into Parsons' home in Marikina, hogtied him and members of his family and took their cash and valuables.

When a maid set him free, Parsons took his licensed .45-caliber pistol, went after the suspects and shot it out with the robbers, killing two men and injured another.

The former actor and Hagibis singer graciously turned down the offer of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo when he offered Parsons Malacañang's legal services for free.

On Monday, the Marikina police filed homicide charges against Parsons.

"The intention of the First Gentleman to give me proper legal representation is well appreciated," he said. "But I have already committed (former Manila Mayor Alfredo) Lim and lawyers Rey Bagatsing and Salvador Panelo for my defense."

Last weekend, the First Gentleman defended the action of Parsons, while the President withheld official comment, pending a review of the facts of the case.

The preliminary investigation on Parsons' case will start next week.

PHAP denies blocking sale of medicines

THE Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP), a business association composed of the country's leading pharmaceutical companies, yesterday reiterated its support to the government in making essential medicines accessible to the majority.

PHAP also denied reports that pharmaceutical companies were blocking the sale of cheap medicines in the country. In fact, it said in a statement, it encourages its member firms to market products whose prices are within the reach of the poor.

"PHAP has always advocated better accessibility of low-priced, good quality medicines," it said.

It pointed out that cheap medicines, manufactured by local drug companies, have always ben available nationwide since the implementation of the generics law in 1988.

PHAP said it is coordinating with the Department of Health (DOH) in creating a foundation intended to provide free medicines to indigent patients in government hospitals.

NBI search

From p. A23

Eight unidentified people reportedly abducted Martinez at the Sun Valley Subdivision in Parañaque City on the morning of Nov. 19, or 12 days after Blanca was found murdered on Nov. 7.

Martinez's family suspected the police were behind his abduction after Philip Medel Jr. claimed he saw Martinez at Camp Crame in Quezon City.

Medel had said Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, of the police Task Force Marsha, brought Martinez to him on the night of Nov. 19.

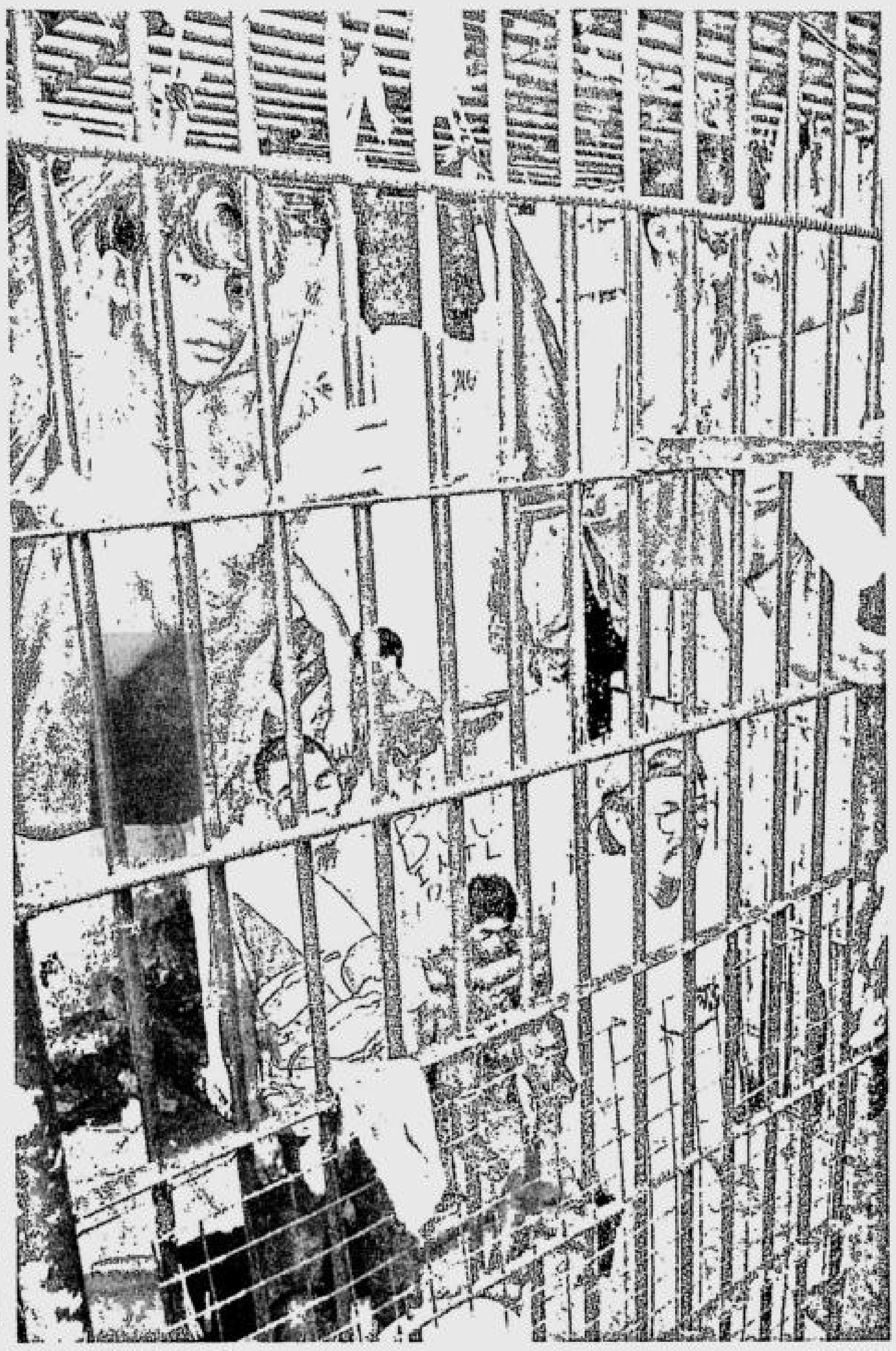
He said he even saw Espina punch Martinez in the stomach.

But on Wednesday, NBI spokesperson Ricardo Diaz said Medel admitted that he had lied about seeing Martinez.

Medel was arrested after Espina filed a libel case against him.

"Of course, we stand by our position that (Medel's) affidavit can still be used," Wycoco said.

Wycoco said it was "better" if Medel is detained at the NBI headquarters. "It's for his own security," he said. "And of course, we would also know what he is doing."



ERIK ARAZAS

SWINGING IN JAIL

Inmates of an overcrowded cell at the Western Police District headquarters make the most of the tight space. The situation is even worse at the Manila City Jail, where two inmates died in three days last week. Built originally to house 1,200 prisoners, the city jail now holds more than 3,800.

Lumbao moved to Manila City Jail

By Philip C. Tubeza

PRO-ESTRADA activist Ronald Lumbao yesterday was moved to the Manila City Jail even as his lawyer and supporters protested the transfer.

"We have not even received the (court) order allowing the PNP request for the transfer," said JV Bautista, Lumbao's counsel. "We were denied our right to due processs."

Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 27 Judge Theresa Soriaso approved the police motion to transfer Lumbao to the MCJ from his detention cell in Camp Crame, saying he is no longer considered a threat to national security.

Lumbao, leader of the pro-Estrada People's Movement Against Poverty, was charged with rebellion for his participation in the opposition's failed assault on Malacañang Palace on May 1 last year.

But Bautista said he did not even get the chance to file a motion for reconsideration before the police transferred Lumbao.

He said Lumbao should not be moved to the MCJ where he would be detained with common criminals.

MCJ Warden Norvel Mingoa said Lumbao would be put in Dorm 4 with 201 other prisoners.

40 years for drug dealing

By Alcuin Papa

A QUEZON City regional trial court yesterday sentenced a Chinese businessman to 40 years in jail for dealing in illegal drugs.

In a 13-page decision, Judge Jose Catral Mendoza of QC RTC Branch 219 also fined accused Jerry Lim, 29, P2 million for selling 960.4 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride, or shabu, with a street value of more than P600,000.

Court records showed that members of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) arrested Lim in a buy-bust operation at the parking lot of the SM mall on North Edsa, Quezon City about 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 29.

SPO2 Ronald Parreno, who posed as a drug buyer, told the court that a PAOTCF informant helped lawmen in setting up the buy-bust.

The informant, Parreno said, was in the car beside him when the exchange took place.

He said Lim arrived at the parking lot in a Ford Lynx.

Parreno said the police informant set up the deal with Lim for the purchase of a kilogram of shabu worth P600,000.

The Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory Service later confirmed that the packet seized from Lim was shabu.

But Lim claimed he was a legitimate businessman dealing in traditional Chinese items, and accused the PAOTCF of trumping up the charges against him, records showed.

Lim said that on the night he was arrested, he was in his condominium unit on Roosevelt Avenue, Quezon City between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

'Common garbage'

From p. A23

right away, he said. In fact, some have already started, he added.

Mayor Lito Atienza of Manila said he would earmark for the sidewalk cleaning even more than 6 percent of the city's infrastructure budget. Marikina City Mayor Maria Lourdes "Marides" Fernando, who is also the MMDA chair's wife, said she would provide more than half of the city's infrastructure budget for the clearing work.

MMDA's Fernando said an estimated P2.5 billion per year is needed in order to clean and pave all the sidewalks of Metro Manila. He had earlier said that one of his goals as MMDA head is the removal of all sidewalk obstructions so that pedestrians could use the space again.

The MMDA will also soon put up signs around the metropolis informing motorists and pedestrians of the proper places for parking and crossing.

The council approved the sign designs yesterday, said Marikina's Fernando. "It will be put up in about two weeks," she said.

"All the mayors except for Makati and Mandaluyong want the color coding scrapped," Fernando told reporters.

Another PDI employee robbed

INQUIRER employee Ben Alexander Paita and five other passengers of a Cubao-bound bus were held up by a gun-toting man late Tuesday night.

Paita, 20, an editorial assistant and a resident of San Mateo, Rizal, was on a bus on his way home when the robbery happened. When the bus was near Bel-Air Village, one of the passengers stood up and poked a gun at the others and asked for their money and cellphones, Paita said.

Because he was seated near the middle of the bus, he had time to hide his Nokia 6510 cell phone under his seat, as well as most of his money. When the suspect approached, Paita gave him his wallet, which only had P50 left, and told the suspect that he did not have a cell phone.

But the suspect searched Paita's seat and found the cell phone.

Paita also said the suspect pointed the gun at his forehead but did not pull the trigger. When the suspect got down off the bus, the driver, conductor and several passengers went to the police to complain.

Paita described the suspect as about 5-foot-7, 30 years old, with fair skin and of medium built.

Leila B. Salverria

How bad is our National basketball team for the Asiad?

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

FRANKLY, PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino said, he would be glad enough if the Philippine national basketball team wins third place in the Busan Asian Games.

Bernardino made that candid statement last week, during the first anniversary celebration of "Teledyaryo" at the NBN compound on Visayas Avenue in Quezon City.

It was a stunner!

We all knew that the RP squad, a perplexing mix of Pinoy and Fil-Am pros, has been assembled with the singular mission of capturing top honors in the Asiad.

The basketball gold medal in the quadrennial meet, which is generally regarded as the Olympics of all Asia, was last won in 1962 by a Philippine squad that was powered by the likes of Carlos Loyzaga, Narciso Bernardo, and the great Carlos Badion, a dear friend and sports hero who passed away last May.

There was actually a tinge of regret when Bernardino made the admission that the RP squad may no longer be equal to the original task of winning the gold.

So your reporter here kept on hoping Bernardino would make a qualifying statement.

He did not offer any.

***

So take it from the man who had exhausted all means, to the point of scraping the bottom and taking in Fil-Ams who hardly look a bit Pinoy, in a bid to form the strongest possible national basketball team.

Please be reminded that an RP squad handled by Tim Cone settled for the bronze medal in 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok after it was manhandled by China and Korea.

Finishing third again would be good enough as far as the PBA commissioner is concerned.

But then, what about the basketball public?

I started asking around to determine if basketball diehards would agree to the Philippine squad again being ranked as third-rate in the Asian Games.

I got contrasting replies.

There were those who swore they had thought this year's RP team could aim higher than third with the bold inclusion of Fil-American standouts in the line-up.

But Commissioner Bernardino should also take comfort in the fact that majority of those we had interviewed believed the national team would surpass itself if it landed in the Asian Games basketball finals.

***

This is not to say Jong Uichico's Nationals have already failed even before the tournament could start.

For one thing, the team should find no trouble moving into the next phase after having been sent to a relatively soft elimination round bracket.

You see, Bernardino had obviously based his candid assessment of the RP team on the uneven progress of training that saw the squad being hobbled by injuries.

There were in fact some cynics who had commented that Uichico's RP squad appeared bent on perfecting the art of losing.

The good thing with Commissioner Bernardino is that, at least, he was not making any effort to delude the Filipino basketball public.

However, Bernardino may have to compare notes with Elmer Yanga of Selecta, the designated team manager of the RP squad.

Just the other day, Yanga came out with a well-publicized assessment and went a notch higher than Bernardino's candid estimate.

Yanga said gaining the finals in the Busan Games basketball wars is the more realistic goal for the Philippine squad.

***

You can all bet that both Yanga and Bernardino were speaking of one and the same team.

A more alarming thing, though, was yesterday's report by veteran scribe Noli Cortez of Malaya who claimed trouble was brewing in the national squad.

Cortez, who has stuck his neat forehead in the RP squad, said Uichico was either unaware of the problem, or has chosen to ignore it.

The report bared that Uichico may have contributed to the malcontent by allegedly "pampering some of the prized cagers in the team made of multi-millionaires."

It's odd but, although the original plan was to first cleanse the national team of the sins its members have inherited from the pro league, latest developments would bare that team fathers have not been very successful in this bold bid.

Ron Jacobs, the original national coach who had to be taken out after he suffered a massive stroke, had himself stressed that the PBA style of play was unfit for the Asiad campaign.

Unfortunately, several national team members don't appear ready and mature enough to momentarily shed the pampered millionaire tag.

That's how bad the situation is in the RP National basketball squad.

Fever, allergy, mascara and shoes

From page A30

up and about and be your most chipper self on air.

Zsa Zsa (Padilla), Pops (Fernandez) and I are enjoying ourselves, discovering more about each other during our tapings of "Morning Girls." We're still getting the right groove, but we love comparing our latest make-up finds.

During our pictorial with **Jun de Leon**, *Tita* **Fanny (Serrano)** pointed out, together with Jun, that colored mascara is about to make a comeback. It's been on the runways and in many fashion layouts. Pops tried red mascara and it did look good with her complexion. I gave violet a try and it did add some flirtatious sparkle to my eyes, especially with pink-tinged eyeshadow which is its perfect complement.

We saw that colored mascara looked best when applied over curled lashes that already have an initial coating of black waterproof mascara.

We all like different scents. We noticed this because when we had **Sharon (Cuneta)** as guest, we asked her what perfume she was using. For the fans of the megastar, Shawie is partial to Bulgari's Green Tea scent. Zsa Zsa uses Tifanny, Pops likes Bulgari's baby cologne scent (it really reminds me of baby powder), and I'm using Dolce and Gabbana's Light Blue, a gift from Zsa Zsa.

I love the scent of musk, and I further reinforce this by spritzing myself with Body Shop's White Musk in-between.

We also all love strappy sandals, even with our jeans. Pops and I have the same shoe size, between a seven and seven-and-a-half, so we can easily share and swap. Zsa Zsa, who has to-die-for **Jimmy Choos** and **Stuart Weitmans**, has size 9-and-a-half to 10 feet size. Lucky her, or Pops and I would be raiding her shoe collection.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	MEN IN BLACK 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MEGIDDO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SORORITY BOYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	DOG SOLDIERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	HIGH CRIMES
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	MEN IN BLACK 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	LIGAYA, PANTASYA NG BAYAN/ SENSUAL FEELING
ODEON	MEGIDDO
ODEON-2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT / WE WERE SOLDIER
ROBEN	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO / DEVILS MASK
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
REMAR	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
REMAR-2	SUGAT
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	POWER PUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SELDA
CINEMA-2	KAPALIT
CINEMA-3	HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THIRD WHEEL
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	POWERPUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-6	HIYAS SA PARAISO
CINEMA-7	CASS & CARY
CINEMA-8	FOREVERMORE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MEGIDDO
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SORORITY BOYS
CINEMA-12	DOG SOLDIERS
CINEMA-14	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-15	MINORITY REPORT
LORES	
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CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THIRD WHEEL
CINEMA-2	SORORITY BOYS
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-4	MEGIDDO
CINEMA-5	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
CINEMA-6	MEN IN BLACK 2
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(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
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CINEMA-4	
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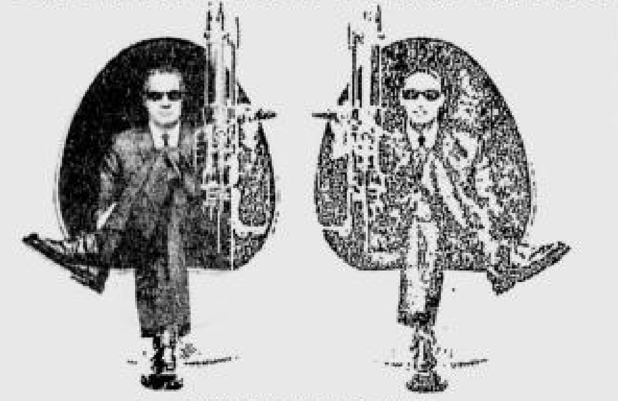

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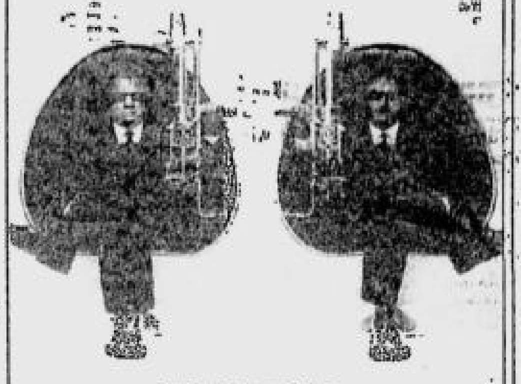

MIIB

Hate spiders? They don't like you either!

The unbeatable team of Roland Emmerich and Dean Devlin w[illegible] gave [illegible] "Independence Day," "Godzilla," and "The [illegible] visually-stunning special-effects-packed thriller: Warner Bros.' sci-fi comedy "Eight Legged Freaks." [illegible] In the smash [illegible] film, residents [illegible] unfortunate [illegible] spill has caused hundreds of [illegible] spiders to mu[illegible] overnight [illegible] the size of SUVs. [illegible] the hungry [illegible] mining engineer [illegible] McCormack [illegible] Roquette [illegible] Sam Pa[illegible] (Wuhrer) to mobilize [illegible] eclectic group [illegible] townspeople into [illegible] against the bloody [illegible] eight-legged [illegible]. Producers [illegible] and Emmerich [illegible] Dean Devlin [illegible] discussed their favo[illegible] one anoth[illegible] particular, th[illegible] loved the low[illegible] B-movie thrille[illegible] 1950s and early [illegible] such as The[illegible] Them [illegible] films [illegible] ended [illegible] over [illegible] earned [illegible] classic status [illegible] them a genre unto themselves. As Devlin recalls, "we were wondering if there was a w[illegible] visual [illegible] effects and state-of-the-art production [illegible] but not lose the charm and hum[illegible] that made those fi[illegible] distinctive in the f[illegible]. It was essent[illegible] that [illegible] such update [illegible] versions regardless of its modern effects and polish, [illegible] not take [illegible] [illegible] film with [illegible] Every [illegible] the chimps saw spiders, they became visibly agitated [illegible] [illegible] a harrowing close encounter himself on a recent holiday, coincidentally several months prior to beginning production on the film. "I was visiting Mayan ruins in Mexico," he recalls, "and staying [illegible] small ho[illegible] adjacent [illegible]. As I pulled [illegible] pants on one morning [illegible] foot pushed on a [illegible] object from inside [illegible] the legs. I didn't [illegible] it righted [illegible] [illegible] enormous [illegible] [illegible] A lot [illegible] probably [illegible] their eyes at least part of the time. And if they do, [illegible] Devlin who gave us such blockbusters as "Stargate," "Independence Day," "Godzilla," and "The Patriot" is back with another visually-stunning special-effects-packed thriller: Warner Bros.' sci-fi [illegible] Eight Legged [illegible] smash hit film, the residents of a rural mining town discover that an unfortunate chemical spill has caused hundreds of little spiders to mutate [illegible] the size of [illegible] Parker [illegible] to mobilize an eclectic group of townspeople to battle against the [illegible] eight-legged [illegible] Roland [illegible] Dean [illegible] discussed their favo[illegible] with one another. In particular, they both loved the low-budget B-movie thrillers [illegible] 1950s and early [illegible] as Them or Tarantula, films whose [illegible] popularity [illegible] the [illegible] them [illegible] Devlin [illegible] were [illegible] if there was a way to recreate that kind of film with more sophisticated visual effects and state-of-the-art production values, to bring [illegible] the modern era but not lose

EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
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ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
INDIA
DARING, AWARD WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY
A RETROSPECTIVE OF GURU DUTT

Mr. And Mrs. 55 (1955) *July [illegible] 12:30 PM, 3:30 PM / July 30 - 6:30 PM, 9:30 PM*
Staring: Guru Dutt, Madhubala, Lalita Pawar, Johnny Walker, Yasmin, Kumkum
(Romantic Comedy)
With a huge inheritance and independence at stake, a shotgun wedding followed by a quick divorce seems a bright idea. But for Preetam and Anita, it will not be easy when love and an ulta-feminist aunt get in the way of their journey on the wiry and wacky road to happiness. Guru Dutt takes on this sophisticated romantic comedy with intelligence. Using smart and quick dialogue instead of the usual slapstick, he influenced the future of Bollywood comedies.
MTRCB Rating: GENERAL PATRONAGE (G)

Kaagaz ke Phool (1959) *July 26 - 6:30 PM, 9:30 PM / July 30 - 12:30 PM, 3:30 PM*
Staring: Guru Dutt, Waheeda Rehman, Johnny Walker, Veena, Baby Naaz
Considered Guru Dutt's cinematic masterpiece, it tells the tale of a famous film director who discovers a stranger one rainy night and turns her into a movie star. Estranged from his wife and daughter, he eventually falls in love with her. But as their relationship grows deeper, it also becomes the butt of gossip and other complications. They will have to choose between what they feel and what is right in order to survive. Even Guru Dutt's harshest critics agree that this film is nothing short of brilliant.
MTRCB Rating: PARENTAL GUIDANCE (PG-13)

Baazi (1951) *July 26 - 6:30 PM, 9:30 PM / July 28 - 12:30 PM, 3:30 PM / July 28 - 12:30 PM, 3:30 PM*
Staring: Dev Anand, Geeta Bali, Kalpana Kartik, K.N. Singh, K. Dhawan
Small town gambler Madan is driven into a life of crime to pay for his sister's mounting medical expenses. But when he decides to retire from organized crime, he brings with him the wrath of the underworld. Now Madan must try to survive before redemption becomes too late. This film noir marks Guru Dutt's directorial debut, remarkably setting the tone for Bollywood's urban crime films in the 1950s and early 1960s.
MTRCB Rating: PARENTAL GUIDANCE 13 (PG-13)

Aar Paar (1954) *July 26 - 12:30 PM, 3:30 PM / July 29 - 6:30 PM, 9:30 PM*
Staring: Guru Dutt, Shyama, Shakila, Johnny Walker
A taxi-driver and ex-convict struggles for reform in a world of social intolerance. He takes to the streets in hopes of employment when a chance encounter with a young lady lands him not only a job but also her heart. Shackled by the chains of social prejudice, he fights to find the good in himself and in so doing, find society's acceptance. Guru Dutt comes full circle with this film as it stands out as among the best of the crime thriller genre.
MTRCB Rating: GENERAL PATRONAGE (G)

Pyaasa (1957) *July 27 - 6:30 PM, 9:30 PM / July 29 - 12:30 PM, 3:30 PM*
Staring: Guru Dutt, Mala Sinha, Waheeda Rehman, Rehman, Johnny Walker
With one rejection after another, Vijay bottoms out as an unsuccessful poet. Constantly criticized by his brothers and peers, he takes to the streets in search of purpose. Bruised but not beaten, he goes in search of love, recognition and spiritual fulfillment, capping his life in pursuit of answers. Was his genius for verse a gift or a burden? Recognized by fans and critics as Guru Dutt's real masterpiece, this film bears his stamp of acting and directorial excellence.
MTRCB Rating: GENERAL PATRONAGE (G)

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Starring: Mansai Nomura, Hideaki Ito, Hiroyuki Sanada, Kyoko Koizumi, Eriko Emai, Directed by Yojiro Takita

Two noble families compete for the emperor's favors. In their quest for power, they enlist the Yin-Yang Masters, Seimei & Doson. But an unforseen evil takes hold of Doson who now wants the emperor's throne for himself. It will be up to Seimei to stop him.

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG13)

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Sunshine
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9 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

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7 KAPALIT
8 MEN IN BLACK II
9 MINORITY REPORT
10 MEGIDDO

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6 CROSSROADS
7 MINORITY REPORT
8 MEN IN BLACK II

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4 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
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VILLONCO

FEGI

ESCALANTE

ABS-CBN talents tied down to network even without a contract

By Marinel R. Cruz

BEING an exclusive talent of a TV network does an artist more harm than good, according to singer Bituin Escalante.

"Exclusivity limits an artist from achieving excellence in his or her craft," Escalante told the INQUIRER. Escalante and fellow singers Anna Fegi, Geneva Cruz and Cris Villonco were launched in March 2001 as regular performers of the ABS-CBN Sunday noontime show "Asap."

With them were singers and actresses Agot Isidro and Vina Morales who were introduced as regular performer and host, respectively.

Escalante said that as regular performers on "Asap," they were told not to make TV guest appearances on "Asap's" rival show on GMA 7, "SOP." They, however, did not sign any contract tying them down to ABS-CBN.

Master Showman German Moreno, whose now-defunct Sunday variety program "GMA Supershow" used to occupy the "SOP" time slot until the mid-'90s, said "exclusivity simply means security for a talent organization like GMA or ABS-CBN."

Moreno is an authority of sorts when it comes to training talents. Many of today's seasoned performers started out as performers in his old shows, particularly "That's Entertainment."

Cris Villonco said the network assured them that they would each appear at least twice a month on "Asap." But with the show's talents numbering more than 20, "'Asap' can't really accommodate us that often," she said.

But Villonco explained that unlike Escalante, Fegi and Cruz, she is no longer an "Asap" regular and that if she appears on the rival show, there will be "no hard feelings."

"Asap" talent coordinator Winnie Mariano explained that the show decides which talents will perform depending on the show's theme for the week. Last year, Escalante and the others used to appear on "Asap" almost every week, she pointed out.

But Escalante said she noticed that their appearance on the show started to become less regular this year.

With the restriction on appearing in the rival show and without more frequent TV appearances, "I don't make money (from the network).

"It's so selfish of them to keep us from trying to earn a living by not giving us enough exposure on the show," she said.

"Why should we pay people who don't appear on our show?" Mariano said.

CRUZ

She said that though the network does not prohibit regular "Asap" talents from appearing on other networks, it is natural to tell the talents not to appear on the "Asap" rival show.

Still, the artists feel shortchanged.

"We know we're good performers," said Geneva Cruz. "I hope people would notice that we're not able to utilize our talent to the maximum."

As far as Ryan Cayabyab, Cruz's mentor during her Smokey Mountain days, is concerned "exclusivity is not a gauge of being a good artist."

Cayabyab said he is not really well informed about the singers' relationship with ABS-CBN but added that he would advice them to accept other offers since they do not have any written contract with the channel anyway.

Anna Fegi has one request of the network: "I hope we will be given a chance to work with artists from other channels and learn from them. I just wish we could also appear as guests on 'SOP'."

LAUREL

Franco starts bar tour tonight

FRANCO Laurel starts his club tour tonight at Ratsky in Tomas Morato, Quezon City.

"Franco Laurel on Tour" will feature Noisy Neighbors on back-up vocals and young diva Carol Banawa as special guest, with Ric Mercado as musical director.

Franco is known for his ballads like his duet with wife Ayen Munji in "With You" and his second single, "Iisa," from his debut album.

He will render the songs in his bar tour, plus tunes from the '80s, Top 40s and R&B waves.

Also catch Franco at Blue Onion in Eastwood City, Libis on Aug. 1 and Hard Rock Café Makati on Aug. 3. All shows start 9:30 pm.

"Franco Laurel on Tour" is sponsored by Tiger Beer, produced by Asia Pacific Breweries (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.

Test . . .

From page A30

Movies on TV

ON the HBO channel:

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Monday, July 29 at 5 p.m., "Radioland Murders." 10:30 p.m., "Mission Impossible II." Tuesday, July 30 9 a.m., "One True Love." Wednesday, July 31 at 9 p.m., "Ghost."

On Cinemax: Thursday, July 25 at 10 a.m., "The Out-of-Towners." 12 midnight, "Project Greenlight 2: The Contest." Friday, July 26 at 1:25 a.m., "Taxi Driver." Saturday, July 27 at 9:30 a.m., "Gossip." 3:30 p.m., "Brewster's Millions." 2:15 a.m., "Biloxi Blues."

Sunday, July 28 at 7:30 a.m., "Scrooged." 10:45 p.m., "Sleepy Hollow." Monday, July 29 at 8:30 p.m., "Project Greenlight 3: The Dilemma of Experience." 12:05 a.m., "Two Mules for Sister Sara." 1:55 a.m., "Reservoir Dogs."

Tuesday, July 30 at 4 p.m., "Young Sherlock Holmes." Wednesday, July 31 at 1 p.m., "Full Disclosure."

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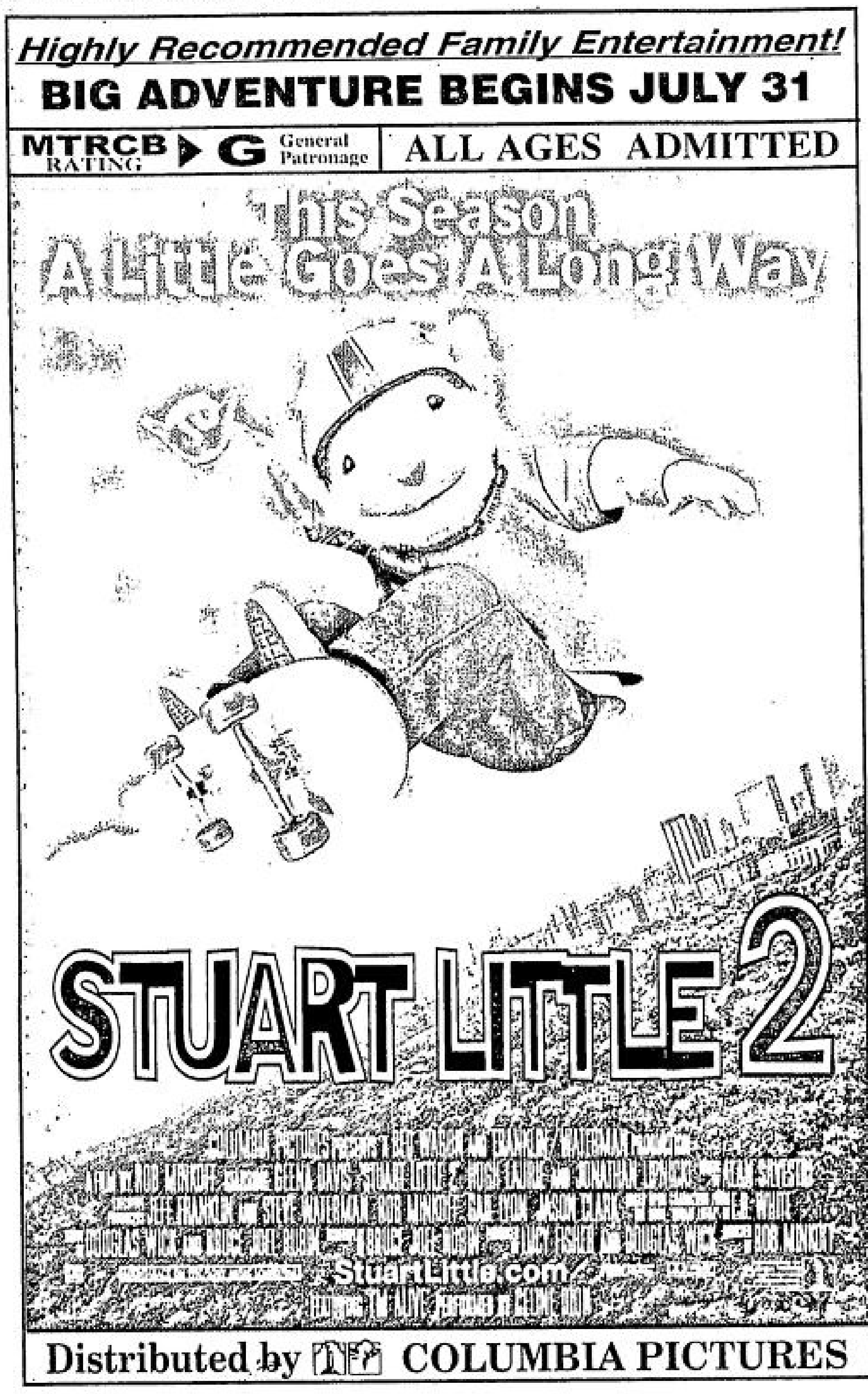

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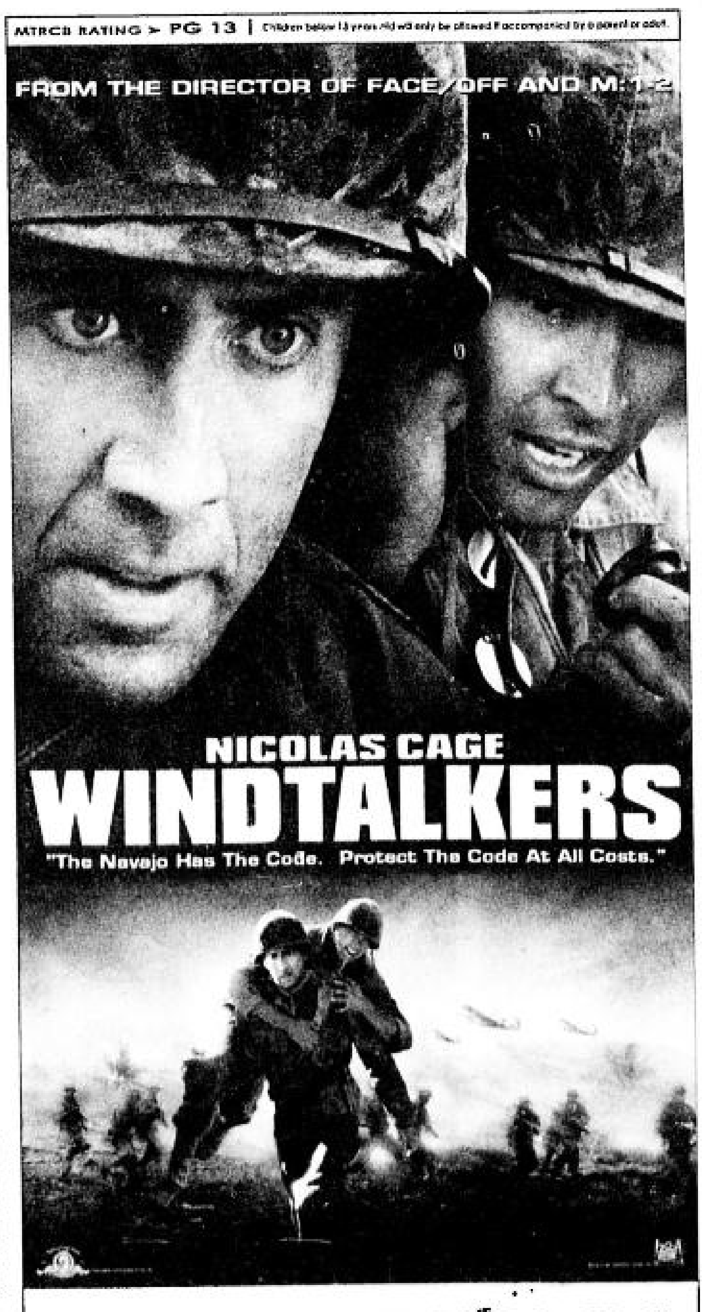

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OPENS JULY 31

AUDIE GEMORA

Introducing God in a subtle way

AUDIE Gemora was first a singer and recording artist before he eventually landed in theater as an actor. Today, he says he is first of all a Christian.

Audie is behind Trumpets, the theater company that is bringing back "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe," which runs at the Meralco Theater from Aug. 2 to Sept. 5.

Q & A

When was the first production of 'The Lion'?

The first one was in 1997, five years ago. There's a whole generation of kids who haven't seen it yet. We decided to bring it back because "Little Mermaid" was such a hit and *parang gusto ng tao ng ganyang klaseng* genre. *Palagay namin puwede pang pagandahin lalo* so we decided to do it again. Also to buy ourselves time, because normally it takes about three years to write a musical. So while we're writing a new one, we do this.

We're adding new costumes and refurbishing some (from the original production). And the set's going to be really incredible, it's going to be very complicated. Every time we stage something we learn something new. We have new tricks.

What do you do as an associate director?

It's more like a co-director, actually. But it's hard to act and direct at the same time so I just give my inputs as co-director.

In fact, I wasn't supposed to be doing this. It's supposed to be Junix (Inocian), *kaso hindi siya pinayagan ni* ("Miss Saigon" producer Cameron) Mackintosh. He's only allowed a two-week vacation (from the "Miss Saigon" run in the UK). It would've been too short a time to rehearse for the play. *Panakipbutas lang ako*, actually.

We found an actor from Repertory (We originally wanted to hire a tall, black actor to play the lion). He's Meynard Peñalosa, he's 6-foot-5, a son of one of the better designers we have, Digna Rosales. We're happy we found him.

Ang nakakatuwa eh yung mga bata. The original batch *kasi*, grown-up *na sila ngayon.* The young ones from the first production are now playing the older roles. So we have a new batch of kids. It's really wonderful *kasi nung nagpa*-audition *kami ang daming magagaling na bata.*

Sometimes your fear is. "Are we going to find talents out there?" And then you audition, and they get younger and younger. I guess because of this whole Lea Salonga legacy, now every parent wants his or her kid to be a performer. Now there are workshops all over the city in summer. There are kids that are trained, 10-year-olds who are already veterans because they've done a lot.

Is this a Filipino work?

Yes. *Ang* history *kasi nito*, Trumpets was doing a few musicals *lang*. We started in 1990. *Ang pinakakilalang* musical *namin* was "Joseph the Dreamer." I turned to my associates and said, we can't be just a one-musical theater company. Sooner or later we need to write something.

I turned to Jaime del Mundo, one of our actors, and I said, Jaime *baka may kilala kang* musical *na medyo* Christian *ang* theme. He said he's aware of this book called "The Chronicles of Narnia," by C.S. Lewis. The very first story in the book is "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe," which has been adapted to musicals. One was written by a British, the other by an American.

So we ordered for the scripts. I wasn't happy with it because here in the Philippines, we've already developed a certain style of performing. We like comedy, high drama, *iyakan*. We like music that's very melodic, we like a lot of production values, fantastic sets.

None of the scripts met these expectations. *Masyadong* dry *ang* humor, too British. *Hindi masasakyan ng Pinoy ito.* I turned it back and told (writer) Luna (Inocian), can you write your own version? They said, *O sige.*

And because the author's estate owns the rights, we had to write the estate and tell them that we decided not to do the British or American version and we'd rather do our own. They said go ahead and do it *pero sa* Asian region *lang kayo, hindi kayo pwedeng lumabas.* That's when we staged it in 1997. We invited C.S. Lewis' stepson Douglas Gresham on the first year but he didn't come. The following year, he accepted the invitation.

If you remember the movie "Shadowlands" with Anthony Hopkins and Debra Winger, that is a story about C. S. Lewis. The little boy in the story is DG, Lewis' stepson who has grown up now. So in the second staging, he came. *Parang hindi pa siya ganun ka*-enthusiastic, but after he watched it, he was so overwhelmed.

He surprised us, he came back on his way to Australia, then went to London to pick up his wife and came back again. *Tatlong beses siyang dumating* during that run. He had been so floored by it and he thinks it's still the best version. For the past four years, he's been trying hard to bring the production to London. This time he's coming back and he will be bringing with him several producers. So *baka kapag nakita nila eh magandahan sila.*

Twelve years *na ang* Trumpets. How would you assess the 12 years?

Very, very fruitful. When we first organized it we never thought we'd get this far. A lot of people thought that this is just a Christian theater company that couldn't be taken seriously. In fact, I heard people say, '*may sariling* market *yan.*' *Parang* slightly condescending *ang dating.*

But it's changed. For the last five years we've made tremendous improvements. The production has become bigger and bigger, our talent base has increased so much. Our workshop is No. 1 already in the whole country.

But you don't have contract talents like Repertory?

Meron din naman. But even Repertory *hindi na masyadong* exclusive. *Nagpapalitan na nga eh.* In fact it's almost common practice. Even our friends in Rep already realized that you can't tie down an actor.

There's already a coalition of theater companies called Filstage. *Diyan kami nagpupulong-pulong, mga* heads of theater companies. We're very aware of what other actors are busy with. And if my actors have no work, I encourage them to audition with other companies.

So there's no rivalry?

None at all. It has completely changed over time. The kind of rivalry we have is healthy competition. *Ang labanan namin pagandahan ng* production, *pagalingan sa pag-arte or pagkanta, patalbugan sa* marketing *o* publicity. *Hindi na katulad ng dati*, when I first came in during the late '70s and early '80s, Peta would never be caught dead in the same room with Rep, Rep would never be caught dead with people from UP Rep.

We've matured a lot. And our actors are learning to pick the best roles so we can't hold them down anymore. So that also keeps us on our toes. Shaping them better, giving them good roles, trying very hard to treat them well.

Did Gary V's son Paolo Valenciano really audition for "Lion"?

Yeah. They all do. Jaime watches plays but never television, so when KC walked in last year, we were all quietly excited, running around like rats. Jaime went like, "who's she?"

The same thing with Paolo. When he came in, we were all crossing our fingers that he would make it, and he did well.

Can one be a good director but not a good actor?

It would be good if you have the experience of both, but it doesn't follow that you're a good actor if you're a good director.

How do you see yourself?

I think I'm a better actor than a director (laughs).

(Luna Inocian) **He's a very good actor, if you ask me, *kåhit medyo kalat.***

What do you mean *kalat*?

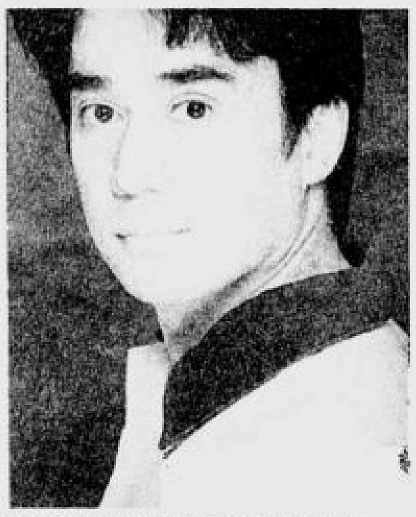
Palagi siyang maraming ideas *na gusto niyang subukan lahat* so he changes the script every day. *Pero maganda naman ang* result, in fairness.

Audie: But you know what I enjoy more now? It is producing. When I was just starting, my dream was to become like Bob Fosse, who was a director and a choreographer. When I started directing, I switched, I said I want to become Mackintosh, producer. *Ang sarap ng feeling eh.*

How old were you when you started?

I started at 18. When I came to Rep, I had heard so much about Zenaida Amador and how fabulous an actor she was. But by the time I got there, *ayaw na niyang umarte.* I could never understand why.

We used to tease her, "Why won't you act, we want to see you act, you're such a legend." But I would see her after every performance, she would stand by the doorway and watch the audience go out. She had her hands stuffed in her pockets and she was gloating and grinning, *talagang parang* proud *na* proud. Now I know the feeling.



JUST ENTERTAINMENT. Watching Trumpets productions is not like going to church, says actor-producer Audie Gemora.

When I stand at the doorway after a "Mermaid" or "Joseph the Dreamer" performance and people walk out of there and they're smiling and they are praising the work, it's like no other feeling. It beats the performance that I've done in the past.

What do you love best about acting?

Biboy once told us that the actor is the most privileged human being because he doesn't only get to live just one life, he gets to live as many lives as there are roles. And if you're a really good actor, acting is not faking. That's not what acting is all about.

It's about being the character. You basically live the role and the more you flesh out that character and the more truthful you are in your portrayal, the more beautiful the acting becomes. And that's the challenge of every actor.

You'd wonder why Nora Aunor would do theater every now and then. *Kasi dun talaga nila nahihimay yung* character. When you're in the movies, *mauuna kang umiyak bago gawin ang dahilan kung bakit ka umiyak.* It's so disconcerting.

What outside force has affected your performance?

Death in the family. I was doing something with Rep while my dad was dying in Iloilo. It was very difficult to go on stage and put on a particular emotion. And many many little instances that don't have to be as traumatic as death. Just a bad day is enough to affect you.

I have used a lot of pain as a resource when I go up there and act. I kill people while I'm on stage many times. The craft of an actor is interesting because there are a hundred and one approaches to acting. Actors feel more, we experience life more. We have to absorb everything. We sensitize ourselves. A normal person will probably use very little of his senses.

For example, do you remember what color your husband or your wife wore today? Chances are, you won't remember. An actor has to take it all in. The more he absorbs, the more resources he has, the more he is capable of recreating life on stage. It's the actor's challenge to see, feel, taste, hear and taste more.

Can anyone be an actor, or does it have to be innate?

Yes, *kahit sino.* Talent is nothing more than the ability to learn something faster. Our common misconception about talent is that it's exceptional with certain people *at hindi kaya ng iba.* But actually, it's just a facility to get there faster than anybody else. So everybody can act but maybe a Nora Aunor will feel her lines a little faster.

May sinasabing instinctive actor *na binasa lang yung* script, *alam na ang* attack. Some of us have to work harder, study the lines more but there are some who have talent.

What personal tragedies can you mention?

I went through a lot. My parents died one by one in a very tragic way. My father had Parkinson's disease. I came from a very wealthy family, I'm a Lopez, but when my mom died, *nagkagulo ang* family.

My father had another family. It was like a soap opera. He got sick, '*tapos pinag-awayan ang tatay ko.* Our wealth got affected. I had to move out of Dasmariñas Village and live in a smaller place elsewhere. Everything I grew up with as a foundation toppled. And then even my art wasn't satisfying anymore.

When you're coming from a place of neediness, you grasp at anything to make you feel better. So I grasped at relationships, at things to get high on, and things like that.

What do you mean? Drugs?

Anything.

You did drugs?

(Stammers) Yeah, um, well. This is not supposed to be about my life, I thought this is about the production (laughs).

"THE LION, The Witch and The Wardrobe."

How long did you do drugs?

Hindi naman heavy, but all my youth until I became a Christian. And then I went to the States to study and I was a big theater star here before I left. When I got to the Big Apple, there were so many talents, I was a nobody. Wala pang 'Saigon' at that time so there was no need for Asian actors. The only role open to an Asian actor was if they had a revival of "The King and I."

Where did you study?

New York University. Filmmaking. Carlitos Siguion-Reyna was a year ahead of me.

Aren't you limiting your audience with your choice of productions because you're Christians?

That was the misconception before. They say we only cater to so-called born-again groups. 'Your materials would be so Christian that we won't want to listen to it.' But that was exactly the challenge. We're trying to reach people who don't quite know God.

Are you trying to convert people through theater?

Not convert, we're just trying to introduce God in a very subtle way.

But how do you react to people who say that some of your productions are preachy?

That's the double-edged sword. *Hindi naman puwedeng mawala* eh, because that's what we feel we're called to do. While there are many people who would say that we're preachy, there are probably more stories of people coming to us saying, '*Alam mo, nung napanood ko yung* 'Joseph the Dreamer,' *hihiwalayan ko na, sana yung asawa ko pero* I changed my mind. There are stories like that, constantly.

We also get a lot of criticism from the Christian community saying we're so secular. So we get it both ways.

Ang napakasakit na paratang was when I pushed for "Little Mermaid." A lot of people were saying, why is a Christian company like yours compromising and writing about demonic characters?

Hello! This is just entertainment, it's fantasy. The little mermaid dies for somebody she loves. And all we want to very subtly say is that that's what Christ did. He died for somebody he really loved.

Can't I just go to your play and be entertained?

Yes, you can. We try hard not to be preachy in a world where God is hardly ever acknowledged already, where God is merely relegated to nothing but a ritual or a piece of wood on somebody's altar.

So going to a Trumpets production won't be like going to church?

No, absolutely not. Take the case of "Joseph the Dreamer." It's basically about forgiveness. If you don't lose hope, you'll have a good ending.

And the prayer at the end of "Joseph the Dreamer". . .

It was the choice of the director, Freddie Santos. In "Lion" and "Mermaid," if you notice, we don't (pray).

It's the choice of the director. *Kami*, feeling *namin*, it's between you and God. If you're the captain of the ship and God tells you, you preach or pray at the end, then it's your obligation to follow. And we will follow Him, He being the leader.

The artist is the most glorified human being, but at the same time he's also the most insecure because he is only as good as his last performance. Yes, we are immortal, but before Picasso, Mozart, Van Gogh or anybody became popular and celebrated, they were starving artists. So we need a stronger foundation. So our conviction is that we will entertain you on one level but we will also give you something eternal.

What are you, first of all, an actor or a Christian?

A Christian. Before, I was an actor first, *pero kita mo naman*, my life was in shambles. I'll never go back to that life again. It's still not perfect but at least I have Someone to hold on to and I know I'm not alone.

What's next from Trumpets?

I'm challenging them to write "Tarzan" next. Can you imagine people swinging from vines all around the stage? ***Louie C. Camino, Leah Salterio, Marinel Cruz***

IN LAST Tuesday's issue, Hyperbeat (right) was inadvertently identified on the caption as Spirit of '67 (left). Our apologies–Ed.

Hyperbeat at Conway's

MAKATI Shangri-La's Conway's Bar features Hyperbeat until July 30.

The band is led by power vocalists Johnriff Cruz, Nancy Cruz and Cecille Tiangco, with seasoned musicians Johnny Cruz and Dino Cruz on keyboards, Arnold Gonzales and Hector de la Peña on guitars, and Jun Astillo on drums.

Hyperbeat delights Conway's Bar regulars on Tuesday nights, with their repertoire of high-energy dance numbers from the '70s to the '90s, as well as today's chart-toppers.

Conway's Bar also offers a powerful entertainment line-up the whole week, starting with ballroom dancing with Becky Garcia on Mondays, The Ang-4 quartet of Isay Alvarez, Pinky Marquez, Bimbo Cerrudo and Dyords Javier on Wednesdays, retro masters Spirit of '67 on Thursdays, Music Making Company and Big Night Out on Fridays and Latin Band entertainment on Saturdays.

For inquiries, call 840-0884 or 813-8888 extension 7588/7599.

Diana Krall enthralls Manila audience

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

THE CONCERT of **Diana Krall** at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) last Sunday night was over in less than two hours. But the discriminating crowd that filled up the venue was undoubtedly pleased. Her music has always soothed frayed nerves, put listeners to sleep or served as background for intimate discussions and melancholic moments.

After 14 songs, Krall still gladly did an encore. There wasn't any number in her repertoire that didn't thrill the audience. Even in the middle of a song, the audience would give her warm applause.

The Canadian singer-pianist had another full house Monday night at the Edsa Shangri-La ballroom, an ABS-CBN Foundation fund-raiser for the "Save the La Mesa Watershed" project.

Krall was previously in Manila in 1999 when she did a special performance at the Metropolitan Theater, presented by Phillip Morris. This year, her two-night concert was produced by Studio 23.

The original date of her show was in June, but Krall requested to postpone it to July because she had to attend to her ailing mother.

The CCP stage was devoid of any frills for her performance last Sunday. Aside from the gray drapes that served as the backdrop, there were only Krall and her grand piano onstage.

Krall did not use any local musicians to back her up. But her three-man band was so brilliant and performing with Krall is like second nature to them.

Unlike other Canadian entertainers who gained fame in the international music scene (**Celine Dion** and **Sarah McLachlan**), Krall does not sing only jazz. She also plays the piano. She has gained stellar stature worldwide, including the Philippines where she obviously has a captured market.

The Grammy-winning artist (best jazz vocal performance in 2000) sang with a voice so full of confidence. She proved that performing before a live audience is something that she really does well. And she's incredibly talented in playing the piano, so that the crowd adores even the instrumental arrangement of her music.

Krall has been compared with jazz greats **Ella Fitzgerald** and **Sarah Vaughn**. But the 37-year-old Krall has a style all her own. Credit that to her lifetime experience of playing the piano from the time she was 4 in Canada to her formal schooling at the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston.

Designer **Frederick Peralta** was my date for the concert. We were with **Ivy Mendoza** and **Vladi Bunoan**.

Beside me was my former Inquirer Lifestyle editor, **Thelma Sioson-San Juan**, who was accompanied by businessman **Denny Wang**.

In the same row were Inquirer Saturday Special associate editor **Ed Sicam**, who came with actress **Pinky Amador**, his fellow member at the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB).

In front of us were **Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala** and her husband **Dondi**, Kara's dad Dr. **Carlos Magsanoc,** entertainment columnists **Ricky Lo** and **Isah Red**, film director **Gil Portes,** and ABS-CBN corporate communications director **Pat-P Daza** with hubby **Mike Planas**.

My friend Ivy noted Krall on the CCP stage was not the sexy woman show on her Manila concert posters or even her CD covers. But what mattered to the audience was Krall's music.

Her husky voice was expressive even when she's simply singing a poignant ballad like, "Maybe You'll Be There," my personal favorite. I saw her "Diana Krall Live in Paris" on DVD and she was fantastic when she performed in the French capital as she was on the CCP stage.

She also did her jazz version of the **Burt Bacharach** original, "The Look of Love." Her other numbers were "East of the Sun (and West of the Moon)," "When I Look in Your Eyes," "All for You" and "Cry Me a River."

At one point in the show, Krall paid tribute to jazz musician **Ray Brown**, who encouraged her to try her luck in the United States and also became her friend.

She also sang **Nat King Cole** and **Cole Porter** hits.

Listening to Krall's CDs is good enough. But there's nothing better than seeing the blonde and blue-eyed artist perform live.

Dante's in town

SIMULTANEOUS with the rise of **Ariel Rivera** in the early '90s was the entry of a promising newcomer, **Dante Ponce** who, like Ariel, was also a Backroom artist under **Boy Abunda**. Their other contemporaries in the Backroom stable are **Calvin Millado** and **Dessa**, who remain active in the live performance scene.

In his short show biz stint, Dante had his share of adoring fans. He did a number of TV commercials, concert tours with Ariel and the other Backroom artists, and even recorded his debut album for Alpha Records. He even ventured into the movies and starred with **Dina Bonnevie** in a Viva Films drama, "Hanggang Saan, Hanggang Kailan."

In 1993, however, Dante gave up show biz, got married, left the country and settled in the United States. The only time he was seen again onstage was when he performed in the two-night concert of Ariel at the Music Museum in 1997.

Even when he was still in Little Rock, Arkansas, I would receive e-mail from Dante. In turn, I sent him postcards during my travels abroad. When he and his family moved to Hawaii two years ago, he also kept me posted. I even receive photos of his kids through e-mail.

REAL-LIFE buddies Calvin Millado (left) and Dante Ponce bond anew.

Two weeks ago, Dante quietly flew into the country with his kids **Glys** and **Armand,** who both have his features. He is in Manila for a brief vacation and to visit his parents, Col. **Dante Buerano** and **Pearl Ponce-Buerano**.

My friend Shirley and I caught up with Dante and his family over dinner the other Sunday at Via Mare in Alabang Town Center.

The other Monday, we took Dante to the popular videoke joint I.O. on Jupiter Street in Makati, where we heard him sing again. We were surprised that he knows even the Side A hit, "Forevermore," thanks to The Filipino Channel which also airs in Honolulu.

He also shared that his daughter, Glys, is a fan of **Jericho Rosales**.

The I.O. stint gave Dante a chance to flex his vocal chords and sing again with his buddy, Calvin. But Dante said he didn't really stop singing. In Hawaii, he would occasionally perform in gatherings.

Dante admits he misses the local entertainment scene, but he doesn't seem to regret giving up his career and getting hitched. He now has three kids with **Winlove Suansing**, a radiation oncologist who arrived in Manila a week after he did, with their youngest kid, **Jasmine**.

"Even if I was here and I had a chance, I still didn't know what to expect," said Dante.

He was thrilled to learn texting and promised to subscribe to a phone with texting features as soon as he returns to Honolulu.

Last Friday, Dante was a guest in Calvin's weekend concert series at Country Waffles in Rockwell. He jammed with Calvin in a few numbers, like "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling," and also did a spot number, **Frank Sinatra**'s upbeat version of the sentimental favorite, "The Way You Look Tonight."

My friend Ivy noted Dante's voice sounded better today than it was when he started in the business. His vocal range has also improved.

In the audience that night was **Boy Abunda**, who dropped by Country Waffles to say "hi" to Dante and his family, as well as to watch Calvin perform.

Calvin's stint at Country Waffles has been extended to the whole month of August. Calvin has been bringing in the crowd and packing the venue every Friday night. That probably prompted Country Waffles owners **Bert** and **Carol Nievera** to ask him to perform till August.

Calvin sings a varied repertoire of pop hits, standards and even Broadway songs at Country Waffles.

If you're in the audience and you can carry a tune, Calvin will gladly invite you to jam with him onstage. Shirley sang "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang" with him. Frederick Peralta, who was nursing a cold that night, crooned "Ikaw" with Calvin.

Backroom's other boss, **Bong Quintana**, also joined Calvin in one number.

More than just singing, Calvin has a lot of wit and charm, with which he dazzled his audience.

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NCR • Reyes, Grefilda F.
6-D Malakas St. Pinyahan, QC

LUZON • Parungo, Rizanita S.
Leonora Subd. San Cristobal Calamba Laguna City

VISAYAS • Obsina, Celia A.
Poblacion Liloan, Southern Leyte

MINDANAO Quezon, Pilar D.
Arcillas St. Upper Calarian, Zamboanga City 7000

20 WINNERS NG P20,000 CASH

NCR	
1. Peralta, Fernandito	114 Pag-asa St. Mandaluyong City
2. Tomco, Mezaline M.	36 Real St. Manuyo Las Pinas
3. Santos, Ma. Leonor M.	733 Blk 26 Area V Amparo Capri Novaliches, QC
4. Aromin, Nolita P.	26 D.M. Cruz Ext. Sta. Ana, Taguig M.M.
5. Santos, Cecilia G.	4416 NPC Road Bagbaguin Caloocan City

LUZON	
1. Lino, Racel L.	625 Parian Calamba Laguna
2. Llorera Julieta U.	B48 L27 Filinvest Southern Heights 1 Brgy Langgam San Pedro, Laguna
3. Larcio, Dominga A.	Sitio Banaba Purok IV Sitio Banaba Inchican Silang, Cavite
4. Aninion, Marjorie A.	Area J. B8 L48 Brgy Lumbreras, GMA Cavite
5. Rita, Marilyn T.	10-3 M. Castro St. Naga City

VISAYAS	
1. Yu, Lecille	Real St. La Paz, Leyte
2. Mercureo, Herminiglida T.	Legaspi St. Mulluu Loney Iloilo City
3. Saballa, Eugenio T.	Brgy. Malibago Babaingon, Leyte
4. Cordova, Jayrold	Brgy Lambuyao, Oton Iloilo
5. Valles, Rebecca R.	E. Reyes Ave. Zone 1 Estancia, Iloilo 517

MINDANAO	
1. Cardoza, Annie B.	Toribio Drive, Pasonanca Zamboanga City
2. Cuadrasal, Anita D.	Villa Rosario Casinglot tagoloan, Misamis Oriental
3. Espinosa, Wilbur A.	186 Arellano St. Poblacion Tagaloan Misamis Oriental
4. Bahian, Arlene E.	Mother Ignacia Village, Carmen Cagayan de Oro
5. Paid, Freddie R.	Mother Ignacia Village, Carmen Cagayan de Oro

40 WINNERS NG NOKIA 5210 CELLPHONES!

NCR	
1. Napay, Ronaldo M.	291 San Isidro St. Muzon Taytay Rizal
2. Cadang, Rosita F.	Area 5 Sitio Cabuyao Sauyo Novaliches QC
3. Alferez, Nila S.	1003 Int 25 Mendiola Ext. Otis Paco Manila
4. Forte, Marites G.	137 Kabesang Inio St Bilog, Balangkas Valenzuela
5. Guerra, Antonio A.	8910 Sapphire St. Villa Lourdes Compound Sucat Pque
6. Desunia, Mylene	Kamada B4 Torcillo St. Dagat Dagatan Caloocan
7. Dela Cruz, Florita S.	295 E. Custodio St. Santolan Malabon City
8. Dalumpines, Melinda B.	Sitio Toyang Bo. Amscap Rod. Rizal
9. Malamug, Perla V.	72 Jade St Hiyas Homes Subd. Parada Valenzuela
10. Santiago, Marilya	199 D. Giuho St. Cembo Fort Bonifacio Makati

LUZON	
1 Paulito, Renato B.	Brgy Palingon Aplaya, Calamba City
2. Calisay, Bernadette	Brgy Bagumbayan Sta. Cruz, Laguna
3. Puntanar, Ma. Polynda A.	534 Brgy San roque San Pablo City
4. Andaya, Rosemarie C	1st St. Lakeside Park Subd San Pablo City Laguna
5. Andaza, Ramon P.	Bagong Sipang, Sabang Naga City
6. Miranda, Ana Maria B.	Brgy 49 Bagong Pook Cavite City
7. Carino, Teresita L.	B3 L6 Zone1 AFP Housing Bulikan Silang Cavite
8. Calisay, Bernadette	Brgy Bagumbayan Sta. Cruz Laguna
9. Laureano, Iraiden	Brgy 4 Ruiz St. San Francisco Sarrat, Ilocos Norte
10. Alemania, Sharon Joy M.	Zone 7 De Leon Saniel Apartment Calauag St. Naga City

VISAYAS	
1. Celeste, Jose Dennis	Brgy. Calinog Calinog Iloilo
2. Villarin, Evelyn G.	Brgy. Daga Proper Cadiz City Negros Occidental
3. Tuvilla, Pedro	Barroc Tigbauan Iloilo City
4. Torrevillas, Mechiel	2387 Inayagan Naga Cebu
5. Villocero, Liza P.	Brgy. Lungib, Gandara Western Samar
6. Pedilo, Ma. Magdalena C.	Purok 3 Libacao Himamaylan City Negros Occidental
7. Bahin, Norman P.	West Timawa Molo Iloilo City
8. Sisteverio, Anunciacion	San Jose Subd. Brgy Tagbao Jaro Iloilo City
9. Anino, Guillermia A.	Blk21 Lot10 Bliss Calanipawan Tacloban City
10. Dumalo, Cheryl G.	117 Blk10 World Vision Linao Ormoc City

MINDANAO	
1. Bahoy, Leonardo M.	Toribio Drive pasonanca Zamboanga City
2. Torino, Rosario L.	888 Dona Maria Drive Tetuan Zamboanga City
3. Pereera, Roberta	Zone 9-447 Macanhan Carmen Cagayan De Oro City
4. Joseph, Analyn G.	Villa Rosario Casinglot Tagohan Misamis Oriental
5. Asenas, Florio C.	Villa Rosario Casinglot Tagohan Misamis Oriental
6. Manos, Arlyn R.	c/o Amnos Electronics Sabayle St. Iligan City
7. Sia Tan, Apolonia	1122 Zone2 Kauswagan Cagayan De Oro City
8. Ombrog, Anna Liza V.	Zone 4 Tibasak Macasandig Cagayan De Oro City
9. Wagas Jr., Teodoro G.	Purok 30 Zone II Maria Cristina Iligan City
10. Lagat, Marilyn T.	Miranda Monolo Fortich Bukidnon

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Fever, allergy, mascara and shoes

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

LEAH Salterio was very accurate when she said I was nursing a 39-degree fever last Saturday.

If you saw "The Buzz" last Sunday, it would have been impossible not to notice that I was still under the weather. In fact, my temperature was still 38.3 when we went on air. That night, I taped the pilot and the second episode of "Morning Girls."

My situation calls to mind the Clusivol commercial tagline, "Bawal magkasakit." Being sick couldn't be used as an excuse to not show up for work, especially during the crucial premiere.

Maybe our launching the show while I was less than healthy is a good omen for our long-term success. After all, last October when we were taping "Game KNB"'s pilot week, I had a bad case of laryngitis.

For nearly three weeks I was under the mistaken impression that the toothpaste my *ate* brought home for me from Hawaii (Crest with built-in Scope mouthwash) was giving me rashes around my mouth. I'd tried all different creams and ointments, all to no avail. Last Friday, because of a surprising allergic reaction to Tylenol — which was previously the only pain reliever and fever reducer I could take because I am very sensitive to aspirin, mefenamic acid, and ibuprofen — I went to a new allergologist, Dr. **Patricia Santos**.

She asked me to stay away as a safety precaution from all forms of seafood, chicken, eggs, nuts, chocolate and wheat-based products. To my surprise, and probably because of my on-going in-take of anti-allergy medicines, all my rashes have cleared up and my skin has never felt so clear.

Currently, I've really been behaving and eating just beef, pork, rice, vegetables and fruits. On Monday, I'll be taking a skin test to determine everything that I'm allergic to. If it turns out that I'm sensitive to all kinds of seafood, it will be one of my most disappointing days possible because I will really miss *tuyo*, *tinapa*, and sushi.

My fever finally disappeared Monday night. It took a while for it to come under control because Dr. Santos asked me to just take children's Tempra forte, and only 10 ml at a time to make sure I didn't get an allergic reaction complete with my eyes swelling up again.

It's one thing to be sick, it's quite another to have such limited options to make yourself better, and it's much worse when you can't be

FEVER/A25

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Aug. 3 9pm Hard Rock Makati City

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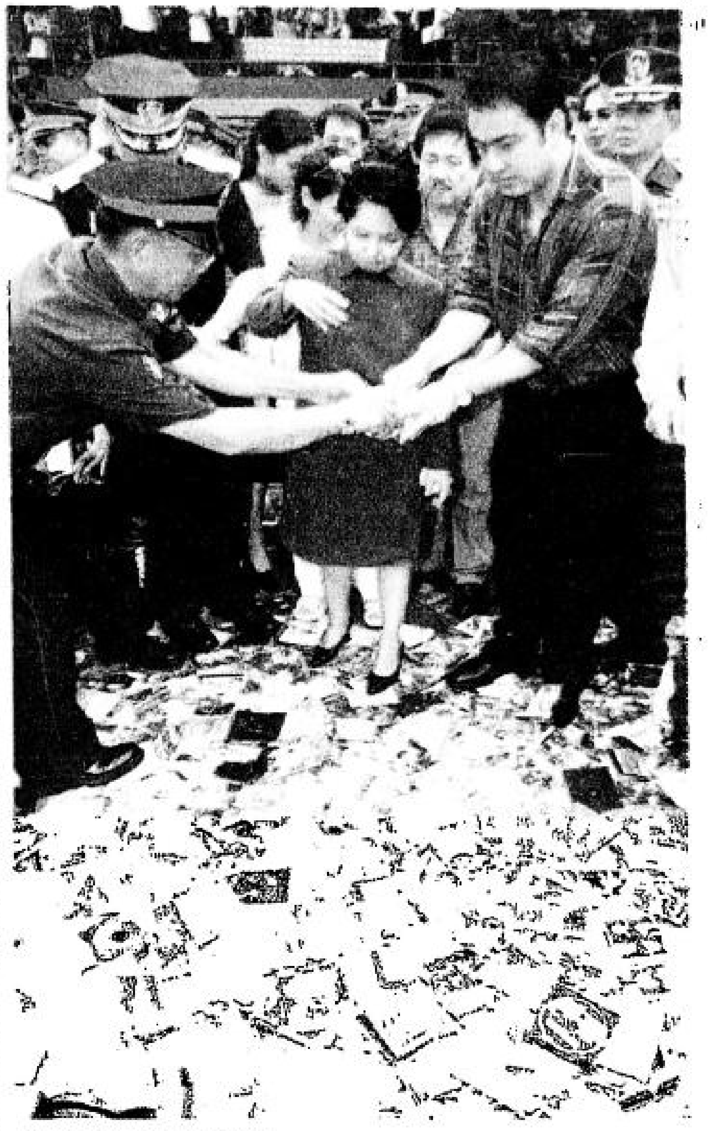

PRESIDENT VS PIRACY DENNIS SABANGAN

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo examines the confiscated pirated discs with Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB) chair Bong Revilla Jr. (right) and Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Hermogenes Ebdane (left), during the ceremonial destruction Wednesday afternoon at Camp Crame. Revilla seized 1.7 million fake VCDs and DVDs during a raid last weekend. The President said she supports the VRB's anti-piracy drive. The event was also attended by a number of show biz personalities who showed their support to Revilla.

Test of texting prowess

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

A NEW game show, "Ready Txt Go," recently made its debut on Channel 7. The teams competing were the "Unang Hirit" hosts versus five TV-film *kontrabidas*. **Michael V** asked questions, the answers to which the team that beat the other to the punch tried to stomp on giant text buttons within the prescribed time limit.

The "Unang Hirit" hosts correctly stomped out Tennis and Italy to win the first round, and went on to earn more than P200,000 in succeeding games. Not bad for 30 minutes of hectic texting and stomping.

As the game progressed, it became clear that the key elements to winning this particular competition were teamwork, quick thinking and stomping, coolness under duress, and a mastery of texting prowess.

The "Unang Hirit" hosts had better teamwork because they've been working together daily for months or even years. On the other hand, the *kontrabida* team was formed only for the purposes of the game show, so its members were less well-coordinated.

In future, therefore, new teams should be given more time to practice together, so that they can think and stomp as one by the time the show starts.

The Tuesday edition of the show fielded male stars in the Los Basaguleros team, and *telenovela* players who billed themselves as the Soaperstars.

The male stars held sway and **Tirso Cruz III** made P100,000 in the next round, but his teammates weren't so calm, collected and quick. However, the team was able to text six words taken from the key word KABAYO, and went home with P280,000.

Judging from these two telecasts of the new game show, it looks like one of its major draws is its celebrity orientation. Viewers appear to get a kick out of seeing well-known people having a hard time stomping correctly on those giant keyboards.

But, how long will this continue to be interesting? To keep viewers watching, the show may have to come up with innovation and variations, as well as bigger prizes—not just for the celebrity contestants, but for home viewers as well.

Quiz-show errors

THANKS to **Lol Landicho** of Rizal Village, Makati for these quiz-show errors:

Quizmaster: *Ano ang tawag sa makukulay na dahong gawa sa arina na ginagamit na palamuti sa piyesta sa* Lucban, Quezon?

Constant: *Pahiyas!*

(No, *kiping!*)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Sa Bibliya, naging ano ang asawa ni* Lot *nang lumingon ito sa nasusunog na* Sodom at Gomorrah?

Constant: *Naging bato!*

(No, *asin lang.*)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Tama o mali:* Canine *ang tawag sa pamilya ng hayop na kinabibilingan ni* Snoopy.

Contestant: False.

(False answer! The correct answer is *tama.*)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano ang wala o kulang sa* skin *ng isang* albino?

Contestant: *Walang kulay!*

(You have a point. But no point for that. The answer is Pigment.)

Character of the Month

THE Cartoon Network's Character of the Month for August is Elroy Jetson. He's the original 21st-century boy who's a good student and budding scientist. His best friend is his faithful dog, and their space-age home is located in the futuristic Skypad Apartments.

Elroy takes center stage on the Cartoon Network every Saturday in August, from 9:30 to 10:30 p.m., starting Aug. 3.

'World Report'

"WORLD Report," CNN's longest-running program, enables viewers around the world to see other countries as they see themselves. Co-hosted by **Octavio Nasr**, **Asieh Namdar** and (beginning August) **Daljit Dha-liwal**, the half-hour show gives broadcasters around the world a global forum.

The only conditions for contributors is that they must be legitimate broadcasters, and that their reports be in English and not longer than two and a half minutes. Telecast times: Mondays at 3:30 a.m., Tuesdays to Thursdays at 10:30 p.m., Tuesdays to Saturdays at 2:30 a.m., Saturdays at 12:30 p.m., and Sundays at 3:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

TEST/ A27

JOEY @ 92.3 Rhythms FM METRO MANILA

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holly cole trio
Golden Girl
fattburger
Superwoman
noel pointer
Never Existed Before
minnie ripperton
Living Inside Your Love
earl klugh
Never Too Far
dianne reeves
Just An Illusion
najee
True
spandau ballet
After The Love Has Gone
damage
At Seventeen
tara maclean
Hardcore Poetry
tavares
Stay Awake
ronnie laws
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4-month payments surplus hits $1.89B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY posted a balance-of-payments (BOP) surplus of $1.89 billion in the first four months of 2002, reversing the previous year's deficit of $765 million.

The BOP managed to keep a surplus in the first four months even as it posted a deficit of $266 million in April.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the government paid out some loans in April and this reduced the external payments surplus during the month.

Still, he pointed out that the BOP surplus remained comfortable and sufficiently cushioned the local currency against volatile market conditions brought by the wave of corporate scandals in the United States.

"The external payment surplus has kept the peso relatively stable despite some volatility in the market," Buenaventura said.

He said he believed that the peso would stabilize anew in the coming weeks after being affected slightly by the problems in the United States as well as the government's increasing budget deficit.

An indicator of investor confidence and the country's ability to settle its obligations, the BOP is influenced by two items. One is the current account, which reflects mainly the movement in trade, and the capital and financial account, which mirrors the flow of investment and borrowings.

A BOP surplus means that there is more fund inflow than outflow as a result of trade, investment and borrowings.

The current account yielded a surplus of $2.48 billion as of April, or 80 percent more than the $1.38 billion a year ago.

The positive movement in the trade account reflected the recovery of exports, which grew by 23.2 percent in April. Imports expanded by only 3 percent.

Buenaventura said the current account was also buoyed by a stronger dollar remittance from overseas workers and an improving tourism business.

The deficit in the capital and financial account, the other major component of the BOP, also slowed down by 78 percent to $506 million from $2.311 billion.

However, the April numbers reversed the $357-million surplus in the capital and financial accounts in the first quarter.

The bulk of this component is the financial account, which posted a deficit of $501 million or 78.3 percent lower than last year's $2.31 billion. The financial account is comprised of direct investments, portfolio investments, and other investments like foreign borrowings and foreign deposits.

Buenaventura noted that the portfolio investment in the first four months of the year yielded a net inflow of $1.69 billion from a net outflow of $884 million a year ago.

The improved flow of hot money was reflected in the improvements in the trading volume in the stock market as well as increased foreign purchases of government securities, particularly the dollar-denominated issues.

The central bank also saw an 86-percent growth in direct investments to $1.504 billion from $808 million in January to April 2001.

But the outflow in other investments rose by 65.4 percent to $3.696 billion from $2.234 billion last year.

Buenaventura said this developed as local banks' deposits offshore went up to help finance their clients' import requirement and also to invest in foreign debt instruments.

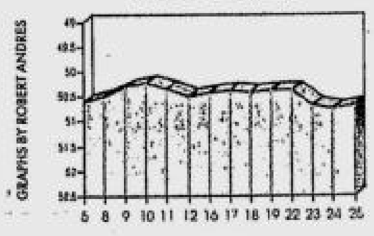
He said there was also a higher repayment of maturing foreign accounts in locally operating banks.

The improvement in the external payments data supported the central bank's target of a $150-million surplus this year from a deficit of $192 million in 2001.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 50.66 = $1
As of 5 p.m., July 25, 2002

¥ 116.52 = $1
As of 5 p.m., July 25, 2002

GOLD: $311.30/311.80
per ounce Hong Kong, July 25, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Stocks continue to slide

STOCKS dropped for the second straight day yesterday as worries on whether the government could rein in the budget deficit outweighed the overnight gain on Wall Street, analysts said.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said on Wednesday the government would review its budget deficit target for 2002 after posting a huge shortfall in the first six months of the year.

The Department of Finance announced earlier this week that the deficit in

STOCKS/ B3

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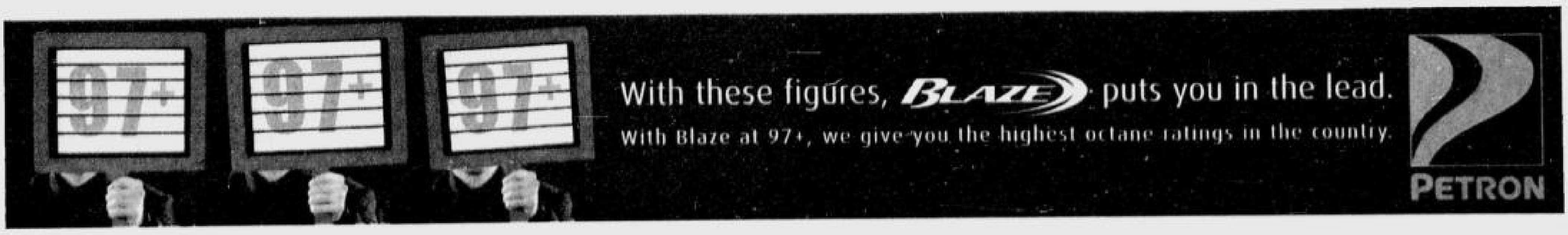
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4-month OFW dollar remittances up 45.3%

By Clarissa S. Batino

DOLLAR remittances from the country's overseas Filipino workers rose by 45.3 percent to $2.827 billion in the first four months of the year from $1.9 billion in the same period last year as the number of newly deployed OFWs rose by 4.4 percent.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said that the foreign exchange inflow from overseas workers contributed to the steady recovery of the peso against the dollar in recent months. The increase in the OFW remittances, it said, was expected to further boost the peso value to below 50-to-$1 level during the year.

In April alone, foreign exchange sent by Filipino workers reached $863 million which, however, was slightly lower than the March level of $905 million.

The increase in the dollars sent by the OFWs to their families in the last four months also helped the country achieve a gross national product growth of 4.9 percent in the first quarter. In the same period, the gross domestic product rose by only 3.8 percent. The BSP said the difference between the GNP and GDP growth rates was due to the OFWs' dollar remittances.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura explained that a strong foreign exchange inflow helped meet the dollar requirements of local companies and, thus, ease the pressure on the local currency.

The increased OFW remittance jacked up the surplus in the country's income accounts by 114 percent to $1.962 billion as of April from $917 million a year ago.

The income account reflects the flow of funds largely due to trade in services.

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration data showed that the number of Filipinos who were freshly hired and re-hired overseas grew by 4 percent.

The BSP chief hoped the dollar remittance from overseas workers would be stronger this year to help stabilize the local currency and complement the improved inflow from portfolio and direct investments.

Last year, the OFW remittance went down by 8.1 percent or by $490 million to $5.56 billion from $6.05 billion the previous year as the number of Filipinos working abroad also registered a drop.

In 2001, there were 100,000 less Filipinos deployed overseas from 4.8 million a year ago. This was based on a survey conducted by the Commission on Filipino Overseas, an attached agency of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The central bank had noticed that some remittance inflow had been coursed through the smaller banks or even the money-shops affiliated with the big banks.

Foreign exchange inflows from overseas workers comprise nearly 85 percent of the country's gross earnings. It normally accounts for the usual half-a-percentage point difference between the gross domestic product and the gross national product.

The central bank said a healthy remittance should be one of the factors that would help push not only the peso up but also prod economic growth while global weakness remained.

The BSP said a healthy dollar inflow should help complement the performance of the domestic economy particularly from agriculture, services and consumer and public spending.

Napocor, Meralco offer 15-20% discount to heavy power users

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez said yesterday that National Power Corp. and Manila Electric Co. were considering extending big electricity users 15 to 20 percent discounts under a pricing incentive program.

Perez said in a briefing that the proposed discount rate was raised from 5 percent during a meeting between the two companies on Wednesday.

"We felt that 5 percent is not enough (because we need a rate that could) really jumpstart the 'declining block' scheme," said Perez, who is also vice chair of the state-run Napocor.

He said that Napocor was willing to commit more than a three-month implementation of the incentive scheme. "Napocor is considering giving the discounts for one full year."

Perez said Meralco had expressed willingness to "market the incentive scheme aggressively at a lower margin."

He explained that the declining block program would benefit industrial consumers who were using electricity at levels higher than their average consumption.

"The discount will cover the use of electricity that is above the 'native' or average consumption," he said.

The official said industrial consumers were expected to go on three-shift operations or add workdays to include weekends to jack up their electricity use.

"We are hoping that the Energy Regulatory Commission will approve this (so that) we could start by next month with consumers using at least 1 megawatt per billing period," Perez said.

He reiterated that the minimum average consumption for a consumer to qualify for discounts would be lowered to 500 kW.

"If the program works out with Meralco's franchise area, we will consider talking to other utilities in other regions to do the same," he said. "The important factor is that there should be an excess of supply in a region (like what we have in Luzon)."

Perez said on Monday that Napocor and Meralco had agreed to honor rollover or cumulative volumes of power consumption.

Plastics, petrochem producers unite to address tariff, smuggling woes

LEADERS of the country's petrochemical and plastics industries have agreed to set aside their differences and unite to address the common threats to the survival of their industries: tariff distortions and rampant smuggling.

In a letter to the Tariff Commission, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) said its members in the petrochemical and plastics industries have decided to unite as they recognized that they were "inextricably linked and interdependent in such a way that neither could survive nor sustain its operations without the other."

The petrochemical industry earlier filed an application with the Tariff Commission for the increase in tariffs on imported petrochemical products and finished products from 15 percent to 30 percent.

However, since the government had earlier slashed the tariffs on finished products to 5 percent in accordance with its unilateral obligations under the Asean Free Trade Agreement (Afta)-Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT), an "odious distortion" occurred between the tariffs on petrochemical products and finished products that "has undermined the competitiveness of both industries."

In order to survive and become competitive, both industries agreed that they must work together to correct the current tariff distortion between the tariffs on petrochemical products and the finished products by moving that plastic products should retain a tariff 5 percent higher than that levied against petrochemical resins and polymers before the country fully concurs with the Afta-CEPT commitments.

The high stakes of the nation (on labor)

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

FOR those who are always prone to criticize both the President and the labor secretary on the state of labor-management relations in the country today, consider the following views and notions and try to rethink your opinions. Of course, it is undeniable that we are facing many gargantuan problems. But to lay the blame on these two ladies may not be fair and just in the light of the circumstances. For these woes did not spring from nowhere only these last 18 months. These are the results of past mistakes and neglect.

This column has criticized too, but our criticisms were pointed at policies, not personalities, decisions not persons. We are aware that our population is 80 million, we have 5 million jobless Filipinos. Ten million are underemployed. Those employed have no real living wages. The others who earn more are mostly OFWs who have to leave their children here and expose themselves to the hazards of working under unfavorable environment and unfamiliar cultures. Thus, the President had to stake a lot to create a meaningful difference in the lives of the working class.

Creating jobs

GMA had to "borrow" a great entrepreneur and industrialist, Cito Lorenzo, from the private sector in order to focus on the sole thrust of creating jobs, a million jobs at first, then much more than a million thereafter. For every year, our educational system produces a million new entrants to the labor force. Only a small fraction of which can be accommodated by the minuscule labor market.

Thus, the President had to prod Cito to concentrate on the agriculture sector, to link with agro-industrialists and big landed agricultural firms in Negros, Iloilo and, of course, Mindanao, the country's food basket where Cito's own giant Del Monte-Lapanday conglomerate operates.

Building skills

The DepEd, CHEd and Tesda are our three major government builders of KASH (knowledge, attitude, skills and habits). The DepEd focuses on the basic education, primary, elementary and high school. The CHEd handles college and graduate education. And Tesda concentrates on vocational and technical training.

The problem with our people is that they all want to become lawyers, doctors, nurses, accountants, seamen, actors, basketball players and politicians. Only a few wish to become skilled electricians, masons, carpenters, plumbers and artisans. Thus, we have an oversupply of white-collar job applicants. We are short on real skilled and committed technical and vocational men.

Job replacement

Since the local job markets are too small, few and far between, the government through the POEA, is compelled to do the embarrassing task of luring our workers to go abroad and seek greener pastures in the Middle East, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, the United States, Canada and now Europe. This is embarrassing since it is awkward for the government itself to promote brain drain.

But the markets dictate the fate of workers. Technical and vocational workers are attracted to Saudi and environ. Maids are lured to Hong Kong and Singapore. Doctors and nurses are in exodus to US and Canada. Entertainers go to Japan. And caregivers troop to the dozens of European countries.

Workers' protection

Creating safety nets for the unorganized domestic unions and the OFWs is a major focus of the DOLE bureaucracy. We have a bureau that focuses on policy and enforcement of labor standard laws, another bureau that caters to women and minors and there is one that takes care of the rural workers. The DOLE regional offices do inspection of establishments on wages, benefits and workers' safety.

The OFWs are supposed to be protected by the Owwa and the DFA and the networks of labor attaches all over the world. The SSS and the ECC are likewise tasked to take care of the workers' state insurance fund for the workers' health, safety and welfare.

Industrial peace

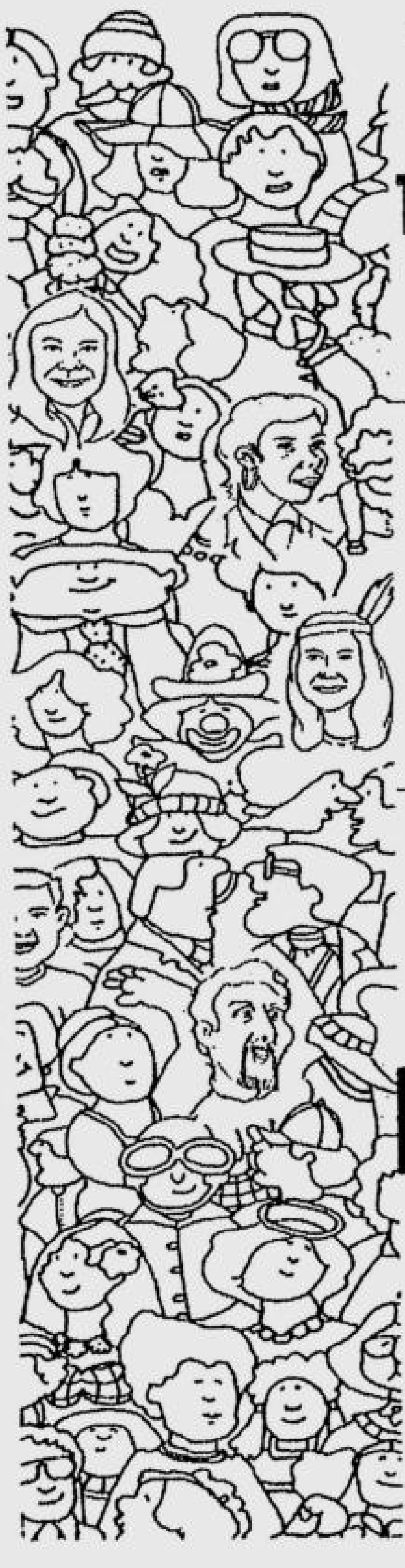
The cluster on labor relations in the DOLE includes the NLRC, the BLR, the NCMB and certain divisions in the DOLE regional offices. Added to them are the accredited voluntary arbitrators who are private persons vested with duties and powers to hear and decide labor disputes.

The thousands of labor disputes between labor and capital as well as those between and among unions continue to occupy the hours of arbiters, commissioners, conciliators, mediators and voluntary arbitrators. Cases are still delayed. There are still reports of corruptions and ineptitude. It is hoped that concrete changes are on the way.

Stakes and mistakes

The charges of negligence and abuses that are often hurled against some officials in the DOLE are results of both economics and culture. What the US ambassador declared about the corruption of our justice system should be seen in the context of once highly idealistic and committed personnel who were left to be eaten by the system, without adequate safety nets and coping mechanisms. Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas

LABOR/ B4



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Uneven justice

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

JUSTICE Santiago Kapunan is set to retire from the Supreme Court next month but unlike Justice Fidel Purisima, who left the judiciary in disgrace, Kapunan looks like he is home free.

Purisima, for those with short memories, was censured by his peers and his retirement pay slashed after he failed to disclose that a nephew took the 1998 bar examinations when Purisima was chair of the bar exams.

Despite knowing that Kapunan, too, was guilty of the same offense a year before, Purisima took the punishment, left quietly, and never squealed on his colleague.

Kapunan, as it turned out, had a grandniece who took and passed the 1997 bar exams when her *lolo*, Kapunan, was the exams chief. (Purisima's nephew, on the other hand, failed the 1998 exams, his third, apparently.)

That niece, Kristine B. Tiangco, is the daughter of Vince K. Tiangco, a son of Leona Kapunan-Tiangco. This Kapunan-Tiangco happens to be a sister of the SC justice.

The family relation only entered the Supreme Court records when, in June 1999, the niece, now a lawyer, appeared as one of the counsels in a Supreme Court case.

Guess who was the *ponente* in that case?

Despite being formally informed and asked that he recuse himself since his niece is one of the counsels, Kapunan refused and proceeded to hear the case, which, eventually, was won by his niece's client.

Kapunan claimed that his newly minted lawyer-niece only attended the hearing as an "observer, her interest being merely to know . . . how arguments in the Supreme Court are conducted." Strange, since his niece, in an earlier hearing, did sign herself as one of the counsels, in collaboration with the Quasha Ancheta Peña & Nolasco law firm.

It was only after the losing counsel protested in writing to Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. that Kapunan finally inhibited himself.

Bernie's fellow cooks

IF the MBA students of the University of Asia and the Pacific want a case study on crooked corporate accounting and board responsibility, all they have to do is ask their economics dean, Bernardo Villegas, for first-hand experience. No need to look overseas for Enron or WorldCom.

Villegas assumed the chairmanship of the now bankrupt investment house, Corporate Investments Philippines Inc., sometime in 2000, when CIPI admitted it was having trouble paying back investment placements coursed through them.

Instead of cleaning the house with the installation of the famed economist-author-good governance crusader as their new chair, Villegas's loan officers in CIPI, like unrepentant check-kiters, continued to offer million-peso commercial papers with absolutely no underlying collateral.

A post-audit ordered by acting CIPI president Ysobel Yasay-Murillo found out that the Villegas-chaired CIPI had issued promissory notes in the hundreds of millions with RGM Industries of Sucat, Parañaque (RGM stands for Rodolfo G. Mendoza) as payor without telling the widows, orphans, and Catholic schools that placed their money on the RGM promissory papers that RGM loans with CIPI had been past due since 1998.

Not only that, CIPI did not even have the principal collateral to cover the more than P265 million RGM loans, the land title over RGM's Canlubang property.

Villegas has since left CIPI and has just been elected to the WG&A board, installed there by a faction that had borrowed P400 million from the publicly listed company without prior clearance from the other major shareholders.

Heard through the grapevine

MEGAWORLD's Andrew Tan is converting the old IBM building on Paseo de Roxas as a high-end mall a la Podium of Ortigas.

Target opening is before Christmas.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

CGU INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE plc
SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT

*A. Philippine Business
As of December 31, 2000

ADMITTED ASSETS		
Bonds	Ps.	100,000,000.00
Investment in Treasury Bills		145,000,000.00
Stocks		23,541,187.85
Other Loans		4,456,615.45
Security Fund		105,081.00
Other Investments		21,320,000.00
Cash in Office and in Banks		52,107,988.89
Premiums Receivable		156,694,054.45
Premiums Due from Ceding Companies		5,930,651.00
Reinsurence Recoverable on Losses		123,313,457.00
Premium Reserve Withheld by Ceding Companies		278,733.00
Accrued Investment Income		2,955,252.78
Electronic Data Processing Equipment		5,261,303.00
Total Admitted Assets	**Ps.**	**640,964,324.42**
LIABILITIES		
Losses and Claims Payable	Ps.	216,607,966.00
Reserve for Unearned Premiums		150,624,929.00
Premiums Due to Reinsurers		130,098,165.00
Premiums Reserve Withheld for Reinsurers		18,357,674.00
Accrued Expenses		6,401,200.00
Commissions Payable		4,695,727.00
Taxes Payable		25,773,354.45
Catastrophe Loss Reserve		9,539,665.10
Unearned Bond Discount		3,736,423.40
Other Liabilities		16,843,229.45
Total Liabilities	Ps.	582,678,333.40
TRUSTEED SURPLUS		
Trusteed Surplus		50,000,000.00
Home Office Account		(83,405,303.98)
Home Office Inward Remittances		91,691,295.00
Trusteed Surplus		58,285,991.02
Total Liabilities and Trusteed Surplus	**Ps.**	**640,964,324.42**

B. Worldwide Business
As of December 31, 2000

Total Assets	**£**	**193,318,000,000.00**
Total Liabilities		179,101,000,000.00
Total Networth		14,217,000,000.00
Total Liabilities and Networth	**£**	**193,318,000,000.00**

* (This synopsis, prepared from the 2000 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner, is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code.)

Stocks continue to slide

From page B1

the first half had grown to P119.72 billion, versus its target for the period of P78.26 billion.

"The gains in the US equities market failed to improve domestic sentiment while the first half budget deficit continued to weigh," said BPI Securities stocks analyst Roberto Cano.

The Philippine main index closed 7.72 points or 0.67 percent lower at 1,141.31. The fall was led by electricity distributor Meralco.

Trading volume trickled down to P251.3 million from P330.8 million on Wednesday. Thirty eight stocks declined, 15 rose and 37 were unchanged.

Analysts were earlier expecting share prices to rise following the overnight rally on Wall Street.

Reuters

Cojuangco-Salim meeting fails to push through

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. chair Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco and Salim Group president Antoni Salim failed to meet in Singapore after the former backed out in deference to a worried PLDT president Manuel V. Pangilinan.

PLDT insiders told the INQUIRER that a Singapore-based emissary of Salim, however, was able to establish contact with the PLDT chair in the city state, where Cojuangco and Pangilinan held meetings with international fund managers, but this was after Pangilinan had flown back to Manila.

The sources said Cojuangco decided to cancel any meeting with Salim because he was placed in an "uncomfortable" situation with ally Pangilinan after news leaked out that he was being wooed by Salim.

Amid threats that a defection by Cojuangco would break up the alliance, Pangilinan decided at the last minute to join the former's meetings with fund managers in Singapore, the sources said, foiling any possible contact with Salim.

As such, Cojuangco decided not to meet with Salim, the sources said, although an emissary from Salim still appeared to "open a line of communication."

The sources said Salim would have been ready to fly to Singapore any time if there was a go-ahead from Cojuangco, but the latter decided not to push through at this time.

During the discussion with the emissary, the sources said Cojuangco reiterated his parameters to any meeting with Salim. Cojuangco had said his support to Pangilinan was non-negotiable although he would like to meet with Salim to lobby for the sale of First Pacific Co. Ltd.'s 48-percent stake in Jakarta-based consumer unit PT Indofood Sukses Makmur Tbk instead of the 24.47-percent controlling stake in PLDT.

First Pacific earlier issued a statement in Hong Kong that its stake in Indofoods was not for sale.

"Salim recognized Cojuangco's strategic role. They (Cojuangco and emissary) agreed to meet again," the source said. "It was a getting-to-know-you meeting."

Cojuangco returned to Manila on Tuesday, the sources said.

Cojuangco's support is seen as crucial in the deal because he has the right of first refusal on the Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp. shares. Of First Pacific's total stake in PLDT, an initial 15-percent interest was bought from shareholders of PTIC, including the Cojuangco group, in November 1998.

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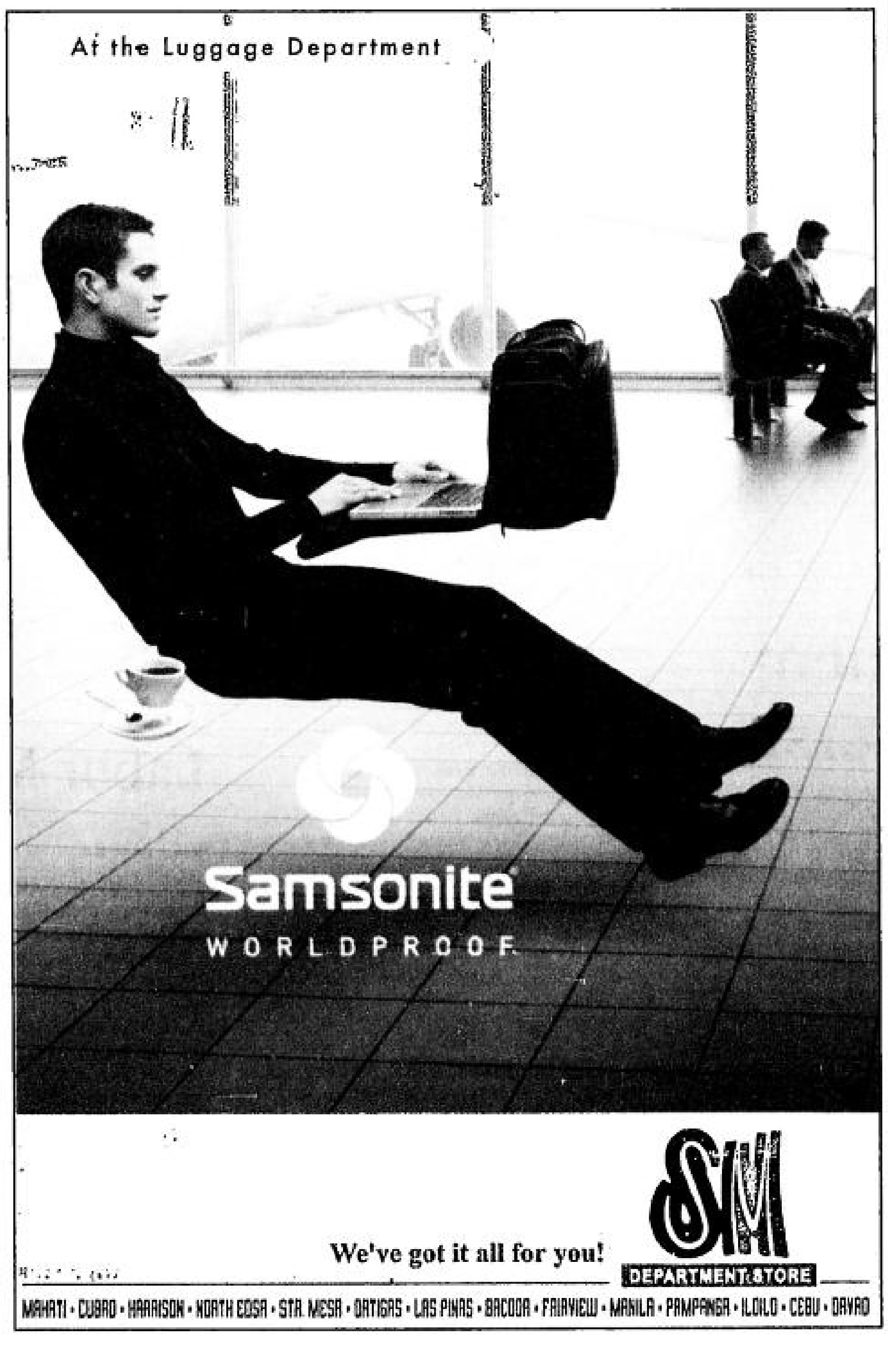

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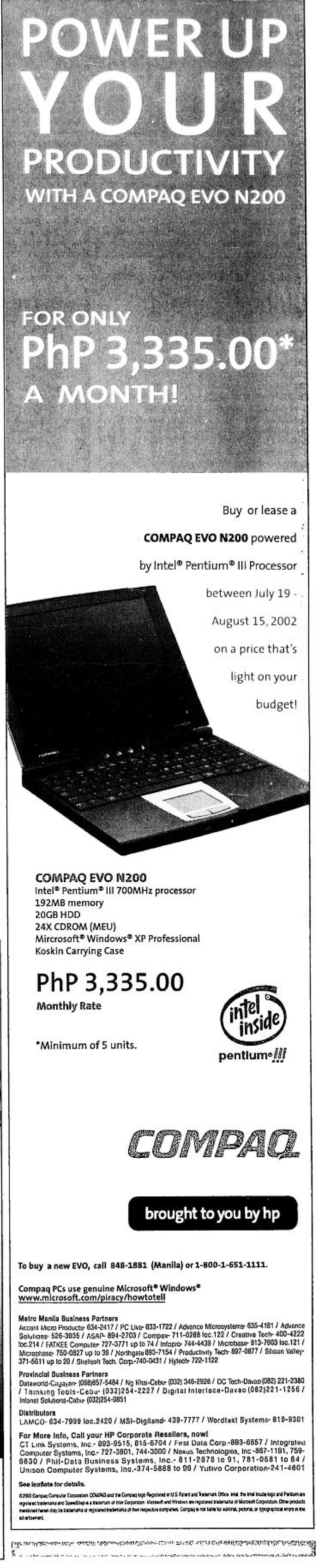

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Bourse clears Gokongwei firm

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange yesterday cleared the JG Summit Holdings Inc. of disclosure violations relating to the $925 million-deal signed by founder and chair emeritus John Gokongwei Jr. with Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd.

PSE president Ernest Leung said in a briefing yesterday that the PSE accepted JG Summit's word that it was not part of the Gokongwei group in whose behalf the patriarch had signed the deal with the Salim-owned conglomerate.

Leung, thus, gave JG Summit the benefit of the doubt, noting that there was no proof of any violation at this time.

"I was told that they would not participate so we're taking this information as given, unless there's new information that would come along that would prove otherwise," Leung explained.

Leung also said the PSE was not concerned over the controversial erasures in the memorandum of agreement (MoA) recently disclosed by the holding firm that excluded JG Summit from the group for whom Gokongwei signed the deal.

"These things can happen," Leung said, noting that it was not unusual for documents to have last-minute changes.

"The PSE is not questioning these at this time," he said.

The Gokongweis explained that any reference to JG Summit in the MoA "was purely descriptive in nature and was not intended in any manner to make JG Summit a party to the MoA."

The board of JG Summit met Wednesday night to discuss whether it would participate in the deal. The board came away with the decision "not participate in the transaction at this time," the company disclosure said.

The disclosure, however, said the board had instructed JG Summit management "to continue evaluating the merits of participating in the transaction and to keep the board updated on its findings."

This developed as PLDT yesterday said biggest stockholder First Pacific could not accuse it of not studying the merits of the deal because the latter had failed to disclose enough information about the deal in the first place. The management of PLDT led by president Manuel V. Pangilinan and Antonio O. Cojuangco is vehemently opposing the deal with Gokongwei.

"How are we supposed to study the merits of the deal, if First Pacific won't even give us any information about the deal itself," said Butch Jimenez PLDT's VP for Media and Communications.

"Do they expect us to base our decision on press releases, bits and pieces of information, and a hastily drafted MoA full of imperfections for which we had to sue just to obtain a copy of?" he noted.

In a statement, Jimenez added that PLDT did not even know who the contracting party was.

Globe Q2 profit seen to increase

GLOBE Telecom, the Philippines' second largest cellular phone company, should post a modest rise in second-quarter net income, driven by continued growth in its subscriber base and cost reductions, analysts said.

The firm, which is expected to report results in early August, posted first-quarter net income of $1.42 billion ($28.06 million), up 33 percent from a year ago. In the second quarter last year, its earnings totaled P1.48 billion.

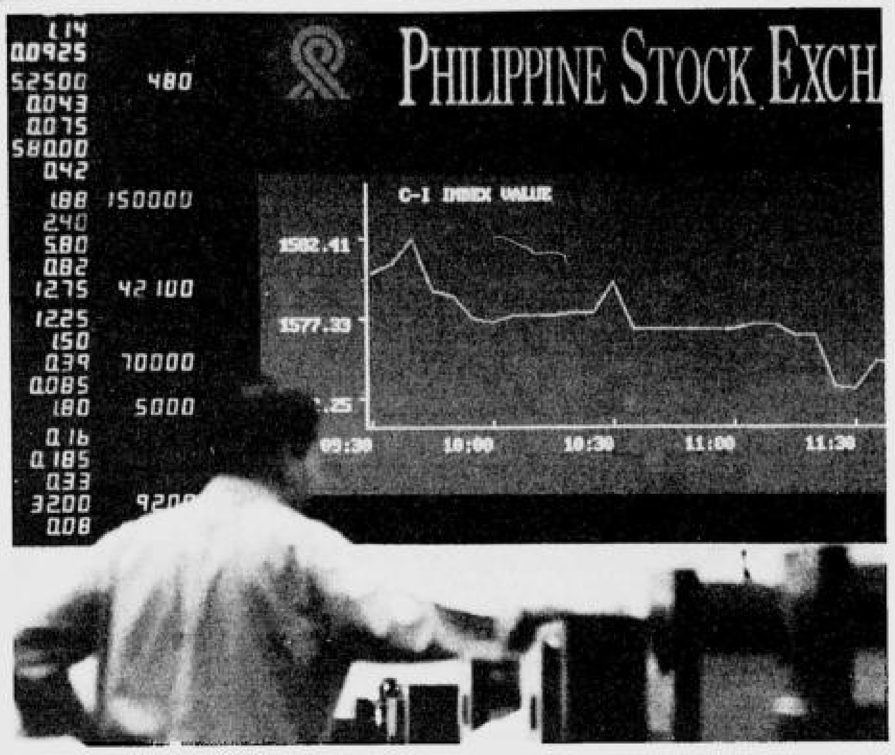
"The P1.48-billion income it posted in Q2 last year should be at least matched and there could be some minimal growth . . . again the increase in the subscriber base means more revenue should be realized," Abacus Securities Corp. telecom analyst Kenneth Nerecina said.

Globe, including cellular unit Isla Communications Inc (Islacom), had about 41-percent market share at the end of the first quarter. Chief rival Smart Communications Inc., one of two mobile phone units owned by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., had around 44 percent of the market.

Nerecina noted that the maturing cellular phone market and still-sluggish economy saw the growth rate for new subscribers fall away in the first quarter compared with a year ago.

However, he still expected both Globe and Smart to average over 100,000 net new subscribers per month for full-year 2002.

Reuters



A TRADER stands in front of the electronic board showing a downward graph during trading sessions at the Philippine Stock Exchange in the financial district of Makati on Wednesday, July 24, 2002. Philippine shares are inching lower early Wednesday weighed down by the selloff in blue chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., as well as domestic and overseas concerns, traders said. The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index was down 3.82 points, or 0.3 percent, at 1154.23 earlier today, after rising 0.18 points Tuesday.

AP

PSE trading committee head resigns

A PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange director yesterday resigned as head of the bourse's floor trading and arbitration committee (FTAC) due to a dispute over a controversial survey held to determine member-brokers' trading schedule preference.

Eddie Gobing of Lucky Securities tendered his irrevocable resignation to PSE chair Vivian Yuchengco as FTAC head. Gobing claimed the PSE management had unduly bypassed FTAC in handling the survey despite the fact that it was the committee that was authorized by the board to conduct the survey.

Gobing and PSE president Ernest Leung were at odds over the inclusion of optional and/or offsite afternoon trading as among the choices in the survey, instead of giving the brokers just two simple options: the return to half-day trading and the extended trading with the afternoon session to start at 2 p.m. and end at 4 p.m.

"I do not believe in allowing optional trading in the afternoon. I have always believed that our industry is not much different from the banking industry in serving the general public," Gobing said. "One never heard of an instance where a bank had adopted a policy of not opening and serving its clients in the afternoon. The members of our industry must have a uniform trading schedule," he said.

Gobing also stressed that the FTAC or any committee in the PSE should not be subordinate to the PSE president. "I feel I don't deserve to be lectured by another PSE director on corporate governance," he said.

"I am not against holding afternoon trading session if and when warranted by market conditions. It is simply a matter of adopting it when the opportunity presents itself," Gobing said.

In a separate press conference, Leung said it was unfortunate that Gobing had chosen to resign, as the matter could be resolved amicably. He said concerns that an optional afternoon trading might make the local bourse vulnerable to stock manipulation might be "a bit exaggerated."

"But you can never tell until you try and that's where the compliance and surveillance (committee) comes in," Leung said.

The PSE president also noted that the results of the survey would not automatically determine the trading slot to be approved by the board.

SEC approves new rules on investment houses

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the new omnibus rules and regulations that would govern investment houses and universal banks registered as underwriters of securities.

In a recent briefing with reporters, SEC Chair Lilia R. Bautista said the new rules would clarify regulatory issues pertaining to investment houses and banks.

The omnibus rules stressed there was a need to rationalize and clarify the rules governing universal banks engaged in the underwriting of securities, particularly on the issue of jurisdiction involving the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the SEC.

The new rules provide that underwriting agreements entered into by investment houses and underwriters of securities for the public should have the prior approval of the commission.

Investment houses and securities underwriters must submit corporate governance manuals in compliance with the requirements of the Code of Corporate Governance. They are also required to elect independent directors to their board.

The rules also require investment houses and securities underwriters to formulate and submit to the SEC their respective money laundering prevention programs in accordance with the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001.

Investment houses must also comply with the capital adequacy requirements prescribed by the Monetary Board of the BSP. They are also required to submit to the SEC their annual audited financial statements that conform with generally accepted accounting principles.

The Investment Houses Association of the Philippines welcomed the proposed rules, SEC market regulation department director Jose Aquino said.

JG Summit OKs petrochem unit's debt-equity conversion

THE BOARD of JG Summit Holdings Inc., the holding firm of the Gokongwei group, has approved Wednesday night the plan to convert $117 million worth of debts extended to subsidiary JG Summit Petrochemical Corp. into equity.

The capital infusion was expected to reduce the petrochemical subsidiary's interest expenses and "make it more viable and competitive."

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, JG Summit corporate secretary Emmanuel Roxas Jr. said the board had authorized the management to implement the conversion plan and secure the best terms and structure possible for the corporation.

"In effect, we are making JGSPC a stronger company that—given its state-of-the-art technology and facilities and quality products—should be able to compete more effectively and serve its customers better," JG Summit chair James Go said.

The petrochemical firm is an 80-20 joint venture with Japan's Marubeni Corp. as the minority partner.

Marubeni, on the other hand, would assume the joint venture's $30-million loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and likewise convert it into equity.

"The conversion plan underscores the partners' commitment to the viability of JGSPC which has been burdened with significant interest and principal payments. Its operating margins have been adversely affected by rampant smuggling, misdeclaration of imports and low consumption growth brought about by prevailing domestic economic conditions," a JG Summit statement said.

With this debt-to-equity conversion, the Gokongwei group said JGSPC was expected to attain a stronger balance sheet, capital base and improved cash flow.

JGSPC is the country's leading polyethylene and polypropylene manufacturer with revenues of over P4 billion recorded last year.

Doris C. Dumlao

DISCLOSURES

JG Summit Holdings Inc. declared a cash dividend of P0.03 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of Aug. 7, payable on Aug. 30.

• • •

METROPOLITAN Bank & Trust Co. approved the exchange of **Global Business Bank** shares for Metrobank shares at a swap ratio of 1.97 Metrobank shares for every Globalbank share.

• • •

PHILIPPINE National Bank decreased its par value from P60 to P40 per share resulting in a decrease of its authorized capital stock from P50 billion to P33.33 billion. The surplus of P7.8 billion shall be used to wipe out the bank's deficit. And through the issuance of preferred shares to the Philippine Deposit Insurance Co. in a debt-to-equity transaction, the bank's capital shall then rise to P50 billion.

• • •

ELECTED independent directors of **Vitarich Corp.** were Eligio Labog Jr., Lamberto Villena and Ma. Cristina Muñoz.

• • •

PHILIPPINE Bank of Communications clarified that although it was one of the banks chosen by the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. to rehabilitate **Unitrust Development Bank**, no formal acceptance of its plan was made by PDIC. And after being asked to give additional requirements by PDIC, PBCom gave notice that compliance at this time was difficult.

• • •

KEPPEL Philippines Marine Inc. bought 60,000 of its own shares at P0.39 per share. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, July 25, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17	16.75	16.75	14,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48.5	48.5	48.5	48.5	199,800
China Banking Corp.	615	615	615	615	100
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	30	30	29	29	489,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34.5	33.5	34	565,300
Prudential Bank	450	450	450	450	8,540
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.25	18.25	18	18	65,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1240	1245	1240	1245	1,980
Sun Life Financial Serv.	920	925	915	925	3,130
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.25	22.25	22.25	22.25	8,800
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.64	0.68	0.64	0.67	410,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	525	530	520	525	2,150
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	600,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.027	1,100,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.1	0.24	0.1	0.24	150,000
Piltel	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	4,020,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	30,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	325	325	320	320	50,120
Ivantage Corp.	0.35	0.45	0.35	0.45	740,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.013	0.011	0.013	242,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	20	20	19.5	19.5	37,300
Manila Electric Co. B	28	28	27	27	999,600
Petron Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	2,044,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	2,060,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.55	2.42	2.48	2,270,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.7	2.65	1.7	2.65	45,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Cement Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	90,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	188,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	90,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	5,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.5	58,200
RFM Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.9	0.9	540,000
Swift Food Inc.	1	1	1	1	3,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46.5	47	46.5	47	61,600
San Miguel Corp. B	52	53	52	53	47,700
Universal Robina Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	1,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.1	5.1	3,327,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.4	2.44	2.4	2.4	5,860,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11	11.5	11	11.5	800
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	280,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	70,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.008	0.005	0.008	11,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.5	15,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	560,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.32	5,610,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.3	0.3	110,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.055	0.06	0.055	0.06	900,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	5	5.5	5	5.5	15,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	4,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	13.25	13.25	12.5	12.75	1,938,200
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	300,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0925	0.0925	0.09	0.0925	3,900,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.48	1.48	275,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	400,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.68	1,290,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	570,000
Music Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	140,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.065	0.065	600,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	1,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	23,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.29	900,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	980,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	15,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
Jollibee Warrants	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	60,700
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	100
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0028	0.003	0.0028	0.003	33,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6.1	6	6	7,106,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	103,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.17	600,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	2,960,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	120,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.26	2.26	2.22	2.22	354,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	200,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	170,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000
SM Development Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.79	250,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	3,370,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.039	100,000
MINING					
Omico Corp.	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	4,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	5,000,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	100,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	90,000

CURRENCIES

July 25, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.005328	1.000000	50.6580
Japan	Yen	0.008607	0.008561	0.4337
United Kingdom	Pound	1.579471	1.571100	79.5888
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.128890	0.128207	6.4947
Switzerland	Franc	0.689100	0.685448	34.7234
Canada	Dollar	0.643781	0.640369	32.4398
Singapore	Dollar	0.580020	0.576946	29.2269
Australia	Dollar	0.545726	0.542834	27.4989
Bahrain	Dinar	2.666795	2.652661	134.3785
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.268088	0.266667	13.5088
Brunei	Dollar	0.574145	0.571102	28.9309
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000110	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.024424	0.024295	1.2307
UAE	Dirham	0.273730	0.272279	13.7931
Korea	Won	0.000867	0.000862	0.0437
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.994700	50.3895
Argentina	Real	0.276950	0.275482	13.9554
Brazil	Real	0.343232	0.341413	17.2953
Denmark	Kroner	0.134664	0.133950	6.7856
India	Rupee	0.020682	0.020572	1.0421
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.264595	0.263193	13.3328
Mexico	New Peso	0.103984	0.103434	5.2398
New Zealand	Dollar	0.468575	0.466092	23.6113
Norway	Kroner	0.131898	0.131199	6.6463
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016925	0.016835	0.8528
South Africa	Rand	0.097180	0.096665	4.8969
Sweden	Kroner	0.105782	0.105221	5.3303
Syria	Pound	0.019559	0.019455	0.9856
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030291	0.030130	1.5263
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000763	0.000759	0.0384

Labor-Management . . .

From page B2

is presently on a crusade to address this issue on a long-term and holistic basis.

The mistakes of past administrations, the pressures of low wages and harsh conditions of work, the weak value systems and the lack of support systems have all converged to create a culture of compromise and corruption, which is not specific to DOLE but endemic to the entire government bureaucracy. We wish to add a caveat, the great majority of DOLE people are honest and competent.

High stakes

The challenges, however, are simply overwhelming, the problems are just too many. GMA and Secretary Sto. Tomas have to lay high stakes in labor administration to create too many changes in too short a time. The challenges confronting them are simply overwhelming.

It is easy to criticize but extremely difficult to reform a culture that thrives in ineptitude and graft. To reinvent the government, to shatter mindsets and change paradigms are hard to do but not impossible to achieve. Let us trust GMA and Pat to do their best. Let us all take care of the rest. Those who keep complaining should better start doing something positive and help.

Global economic recovery on track, stocks a wildcard

WASHINGTON—A snapback in US stock prices on Wednesday bolstered beliefs the global economy will stay on a recovery path, but analysts warned that a resumption of severe selling could take a heavy toll on growth.

Even after the Dow Jones industrial average soared 489 points—its second largest point gain ever and the largest percentage rise since October 1987—the increase still left the index at 8,191, a level that until the past week had not been seen since 1998.

"It's heartening but we've got to see some follow-through," said former Federal Reserve Governor Laurence Meyer, who is now a senior adviser to Macroeconomic Advisers LLC.

Meyer said the stocks rebound made him more confident the US economy would log a fairly solid growth rate in the second half of this year with an even better performance in 2003.

Since the start of this year, the US economy has been pulling out of a recession that began in March of 2001. Data through June have painted a picture of solid consumer spending and the beginnings of a pick-up in key business investment.

However, weeks of sharp declines in major US stock indices and recent slides in bourses abroad have led to fears that consumer and business confidence could take a nose-dive, endangering an already precarious global recovery.

One rule of thumb suggests that for every $1 consumers lose in the stock market, they reduce their spending by about 3 cents. While this is not a huge impact, it would add up to quite a bit in the event of a substantial stocks rout.

"We've had a major decline in household net worth (in the United States)," said Pierre Ellis, economist at Decision Economics in New York.

Ellis said that while the drop in stock prices so far has not been "catastrophic" for consumer spending, it does amount to a reduction of about 0.5 percentage point from the annual growth rate of consumer expenditures, to about 2 percent from a 2.5 percent rate prior to the big downdraft in stock prices. *Reuters*

Japan to tackle bank woes before deposit move

TOKYO—The Japanese government, faced with mounting opposition to its plan to end full state guarantees on bank deposits next year, said on Thursday it will directly address worries about bank health rather than allow a delay.

The plan to reinstate a 10-million-yen ($85,680) cap on state protection for all types of deposits at the end of next March has prompted concern about a possible run on weaker regional banks, but Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda said the government would tackle the real problem instead of try to buy time.

"The government has consistently said that the 'payoff scheme' will not be delayed," Fukuda told a news conference.

"What are the big issues and how can we deal with the concerns? The Financial Services Agency (FSA) has been considering those things for quite some time."

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has so far defied calls from many politicians and businessmen to postpone introducing limited protection—known as the "payoff scheme"—due to misgivings over the capital adequacy of banks.

Japanese banks have seen their capital base come under pressure from stock market weakness and the burden of disposing of enormous non-performing loans.

Many regional banks are seen particularly vulnerable, and their failure could deal a devastating blow to small businesses and regional economies.

Talk in the market has been that the FSA will propose using public funds to encourage mergers among regional financial institutions and offer tax breaks for such streamlining in the overcrowded industry. *Reuters*

Bush ready to sign corporate reform bill

US HOUSE and Senate negotiators agreed Wednesday on a wide-ranging corporate reform bill that provides oversight of auditors and stiffens penalties for CEOs guilty of wrongdoing, in the hopes that shaken investors will edge back into the markets.

Corporate reform took on new urgency in the wake of a raft of accounting scandals that began in December with the bankruptcy of energy trader Enron and continued Wednesday with the arrests on fraud charges of five executives of the cable operator Adelphia and the announcement of an SEC probe of media giant AOL Time Warner.

"Investor confidence is almost an oxymoron these days," said House Republican Mike Oxley, who chaired the conference that produced the bill aimed as a response to the scandals that were among the causes of the roughly $7 trillion loss in the markets since March 2000.

But the passage of this legislation, coupled with Wednesday's massive 480-point rebound by the blue chip Dow Jones index, seems to signal a "beginning of the restoration of confidence in the markets," Oxley said.

The final bill, a stepped-up version of legislation proposed in the Senate by Maryland Democrat Paul Sarbanes, establishes an independent board to set standards and discipline auditors of public companies, to be overseen by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Non-audit services accountants may offer their audit clients will be narrowed in scope, and corporate executives will be required to accept responsibility for the accuracy and veracity of their companies' financial reports.

The bill also requires real-time corporate disclosure of anything that can impact a company's financial health and requires corporations to contribute to accounts that will return funds to investors who have lost money in the markets as a result of corporate wrongdoing. *AFP*

DBS VICKERS SECURITIES PHILIPPINES, INC.

5/F Tower One and Exchange Plaza, Ayala Triangle
Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

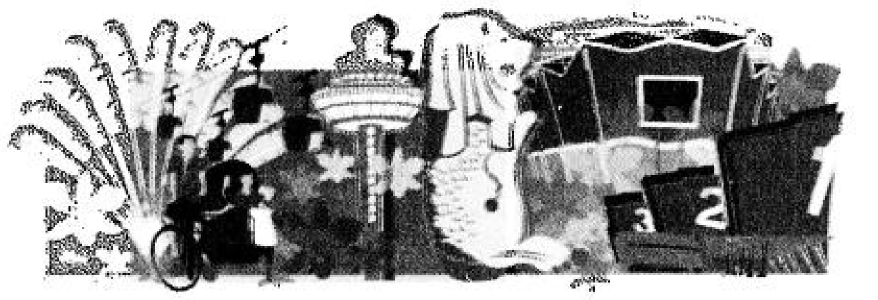
ANNOUNCEMENT

TO OUR VALUED CLIENTS:

Following a review of its operations in the region, DBS Vickers Securities (Philippines), Inc. has decided to cease its securities business in the Philippines with effect from 31 August 2002.

In preparation of the cessation of business, DBS Vickers Securities (Philippines), Inc. will cease to take trade orders from clients with effect from 29 July 2002. To ensure that you can continue with your trading arrangements, DBS Vickers Securities has appointed SB Equities, Inc. to take over its securities business. Should you wish to transfer your shares/money to the stockbroker of your choice, we would be grateful if you could notify us in writing on or before 09 August 2002.

DBS Vickers Securities would like to thank all of you for your support over the years. If you require more information, please call our Settlements Department at the following telephone numbers: (632) 759-4488 or (632) 848-5595.



Seize business opportunities in the world of Manufacturing Technology. Singapore promises you an eventful stay.

9 – 12 July
☐ **Cleantec Asia 2002**
Singapore Expo
Website:
http://www.hvacasia2002.com
Estimated no. of visitors: **5,000**
Estimated no. of participating companies: **20**

Cleantec Asia 2002 is the 1st international exhibition on environmental cleaning equipment and technology for industrial, commercial, institutional and residential sectors, which aims to gather the world's most advanced and effective cleaning equipment and technology under a one-stop cleaning platform.

9 – 12 July
☐ **Heating, Ventilation & Air-Conditioning Asia 2002 (HVAC Asia 2002)**
Singapore Expo
Website:
http://www.hvacasia2002.com
Estimated no. of visitors: **5,000**
Estimated no. of participating companies: **200**

HVAC Asia 2002, incorporating Air Filtration & Purification Asia 2002 is a high-end market platform that works in partnership with companies to provide the best marketing channel and network in Asia. The event is also held in conjunction with two other international shows, namely Refrigeration Asia 2002 and Building Automation & Controls Asia 2002 (BAC Asia 2002) to tap on Asia's distribution channels as well as to provide solutions to the industry.

9 – 12 July
☐ **Pumps & Systems Asia 2002**
Singapore Expo
Website:
http://www.psa2002.com
Estimated no. of visitors:
15,000
Estimated no. of participating companies: **1,200**

Held in conjunction with Valves & Fittings Asia 2002; Tubes & Piping Asia 2002; Compressors & Systems Asia 2002; Fluid Power Asia 2002; Chemtec Asia 2002; Control & Instrumentation Asia 2002; Watertec Asia 2002; Envirotec Asia 2002, this event is the largest pumps and systems event in Asia in its 6th staging.

30 July – 1 August
☐ **CleanRooms Asia 2002**
Suntec Singapore
Website:
http://www.cleanrooms.com
Estimated no. of visitors:
3,000
Estimated no. of participating companies: **160**

The event provides a platform for professionals to learn, understand and examine the most current contamination control technology. Visitors can also look forward to the most expansive array of equipment, products, and services in the contamination control industries.

Contact the travel agents below for more details:

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Blue Horizons Travel and Tours, Inc.
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Fax : 632 811 8289
632 848 3909

For more information, please contact:
Singapore Tourism Board
c/o Nancy Harel & Associates, Inc.
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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

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Global food and agri sectors gear up for RP trade show

MEMBERS of the global food and agriculture industry are vigorously preparing for Agrilink and Foodlink 2002, the Philippines' biggest and most prestigious international agribusiness and food trade show slated at the World Trade Center Metro Manila from Oct. 10-12.

This early, all prime exhibit booths have been booked by local and foreign firms, including local government units, many acquiring more than one for either Agrilink or Foodlink, or both.

This development came on the heels of the highly successful Agrilink and Foodlink 2001, which was participated in by 197 firms occupying 262 indoor and outdoor booths and attracting over 14,000 visitors to view the exhibits, attend its 20 seminars, learn about new products, upgrade their technologies, and explore business opportunities.

Foreign exhibitors included companies from the United States, the Netherlands, Denmark, Austria, Germany, Italy, Israel, United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Malaysia and other Asia-Pacific countries.

These foreign companies are involved in the manufacture of equipment and machinery, while the others in feeds, veterinary health, animal breeding, food processing, fertilizer and seed production, horticulture, farm supplies, and other related enterprises.

The local participants included San Miguel Foods, Purefoods, Infarmco Group of Companies, Universal Robina, Ariela Marketing, Mingley Trades, Asia Giant, Vitarich, Foremost Farms, Monsanto Philippines, and Belmont.

Retail exhibitors posted average direct sales of about P26,000 during the three-day event, while indoor participants reported an average of P545,000 worth of orders booked and under negotiations.

On the visitor side, almost half were farm owners, financial advisors, veterinarians, and marketing managers involved in purchasing, while more than a third were engineers, researchers, consultants, technicians, and sales agents evaluating new products and technologies.

Held annually, Agrilink 2002 will be the ninth since 1994, and Foodlink 2002 the third since 2000.

These twin events are organized by the Foundation for Resource Linkage and Development (FRLD) and supported by the Department of Agriculture, National Agriculture and Fisheries Council, and 26 local industry associations who participated as co-organizers.

Other details can be obtained from the FRLD (838-4549, 838-4852; fax 838-4573, or e-mail frld@info.com.ph)

Globally popular, these twin exhibits bring to the Philippines the world's leading manufacturers and suppliers of advanced food and agricultural equipment, facilities, products, systems and technologies, and links them with the local industry for possible marketing tie-ups, joint ventures and other business activities.

Such linkages complement the efforts of homegrown food and agribusiness industries to modernize their production systems through technology transfer, expand their foreign markets and find new products for local distribution

Lowe Worldwide only Cannes winner in Asia

LOWE Singapore has won a TV Gold Lion at this year's Cannes Lions international advertising festival for its "Dog" spot for Ikea Singapore. The Gold Lion was the only such award given to an agency in Asia, the second TV Gold ever won from an agency in Singapore, In addition, out of the five Cannes TV finalists from Singapore, two were from Lowe. The advertising festival was held from June 16 to 22 in Cannes, France.

"This TV campaign worked extremely well for Ikea and now we couldn't be more pleased with the creative recognition. Winning two silvers at the 2001 New York Festivals and now winning a Gold at Cannes is definitely a testament to the success of the campaign and the strength of our work for Ikea", said Addison James, CEO of Lowe Singapore.

Lowe's TVC "Dog", one of the three spots that centered on a pet's reaction to the newly furnished homes of their owners, was written by the Gwee Wei Ling and Claire Chen to launch Ikea's repositioning on the back of the 2002 new range launch. The production company for the campaign was The Shooting Gallery.

Lowe & Partners was founded by Frank Lowe in London in 1981, with five people in two rooms, billings of $15 million, and the ambition to build a top 10 global agency through producing effective, high-quality creative advertising. Today, the group is ranked 4th among worldwide agency groups, with billings of $14 billion, offices in over 80 countries, 14,700 employees and the enviable reputation for building powerful brands through outstanding creative work. Lowe is a member of The Partnership, one of four global operating groups that comprise The Interpublic Group of Companies, one of the world's leading organizations of advertising agencies and marketing services companies.

SUBURBIA EAST TIME CAPSULE

Marikina City Mayor Marides C. Fernando (left) leads guests in lowering the time capsule of Suburbia East Subdivision. Assisting are (from left) Vice Mayor Marion Andres, HLURB commissioner Roque Magno, EEI Realty Corp.'s Samson Lazo, former Marikina Mayor and MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, and barangay captain Rebecca Favis. Looking on (partly hidden) is Suburbia East general manager Larry Ardina.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PHILS
BAHAY-NIHAN

'PAG-BAHAYNIHAN'

The Public Affairs Group (AFPRescom) led by its Commander Col. Jesus G. Cabarrus gave a helping hand in building houses for Habitat for Humanity Philippines recently at Soldiers Hill, Muntinlupa. Shown are the PAG members at the site.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Indeed, gift giving is year round. Smart Communications Inc. recently granted the wishes of young people with life-threatening illnesses to own a cellular phone and be able to send and receive text messages from their loved ones. The activity was initiated by Make-A-Wish Foundation and its first corporate partner, Gift Gate Inc. Smart and Gift Gate endorsers Martin Nievera and Kris Aquino hosted the show held at Glorietta July 3. Of the 10 people whose wishes were granted, three wanted a cell phone. Martin Nievera and Kris Aquino (left and right) are shown with 12-year-old Debbie Bulan, 9-year-old Lauden Aliman and 16-year-old Julius Briones who all wished for a cell phone. Shermaian Melo, beside Kris, was given a scholarship on computer tutorial.

BAYANI FOR JOY

Bayani Agbayani brings 'Papel de Lambot sa Presyong Mas Malambot' good news to consumers through the new ad campaign of Joy bathroom tissue. Joy bathroom tissue was relaunched at a more affordable price of P10.50 per roll, while maintaining the same quality the brand has always been known for. Present at the contract signing were (seated, from left) Bayani Agbayani's talent manager Cornelia 'Angge' Lee, Bayani Agbayani, and Alan Acero, senior product manager for family care-Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. Standing, at left is Mannette Razon, management supervisor of J. Walter Thompson with Cecile Paderon, product manager of K-CPI.

DINNER PREPARATION FOR MSP

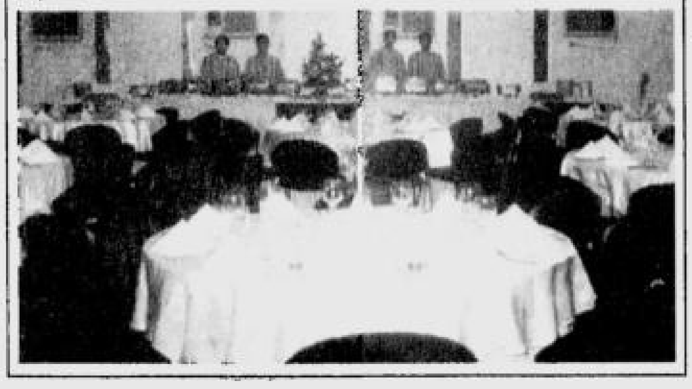
Mila Drilon tendered a dinner recently at her Greenhills residence for the board of advisers and steering committee members of the Mission Society of the Philippines in preparation for the launch of the National Mission Awareness and Promotion Campaign tonight at 6 p.m. at the NBC Tent at The Fort in Makati City. MSP, a missionary congregation of the Archdiocese of Manila, will launch a nationwide campaign to draw mission awareness and involvement among Filipino Catholics through vocation, or lay missionary, prayer partner, or benefactor. Jose L. Cuisia, Philamlife president is overall chair of the event. Mila Drilon is co-chair. The board of advisers is composed of Mercy Tuason, Trining Panicucci, Madeleine Lim, Tessie Ledesma, Lolita Mirpuri, Luz Victoria, Myrna Borromeo, Baby Antonio, Esther Magleo, Freida Hizon, Mars Lambino, Ruddy Tan, and Lili T. Adina. Shown, from left, are Antonio, Hizon, Ledesma, Fr. Rommel Cruz, MSP, Drilon, and Magleo.

Product FILES

Perfect weddings at Best Western Hotel La Corona

BEST Western Hotel La Corona launches its affordable wedding package for 100 guests. For P42,500, the package includes a 7-course buffet menu, a 2-layered wedding cake, overnight stay for two in a deluxe room, a tea shower (for seven persons), breakfast for two at Café Corona, a complimentary bottle of wine, 30 pieces of souvenirs, a torch parade, a photo frame or guest book, wedding doves, a personalized wedding backdrop, floral arrangements for every table, complimentary fruit basket, free use of function room for five hours, a gift certificate for an overnight stay on your 1st wedding anniversary, and no electricity charge for guest video coverage.

For reservations, call Vangie Baraquiel of the sales and marketing department at 524-2631 to 38.



INTEL PARTNERS WITH MSI-DIGILAND

Intel, the world's largest chipmaker, recently named its new distributor in the country MSI-Digiland Philippines. The agreement will enable MSI-Digiland to distribute Intel's high-performance line of Pentium processors, thereby giving more PC users access to Intel's high-quality products. Shown at the contract signing were (from left) Sharon Khohayting, product manager of MSI-Digiland Philippines, Princess Ong, assistant vice president of the consumer sales and marketing division, Jimmy Go, president of MSI-Digiland Philippines, Ricky Banaag, country manager of Intel Microelectronics Philippines, Celine Conti, sales manager of Intel Microelectronics Philippines, and Trinna de Leon, channels account manager of Intel Microelectronics Philippines.

EPLDT-DOJ WEBSITE LAUNCH

ePLDT, the information and communications technology company of telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, recently designed and developed a website for the Department of Justice to help the department become more accessible to a greater number of people, and to speed up its e-governance initiatives. Shown at the launching of the DOJ website are Justice Secretary Hernando Perez (right), Emmanuel Dizon, ePLDT chief technology officer, and Albert del Rosario, ePLDT ContentDev head, second and third from right.

Women's Volleyball

OFFICIAL FILM OF THE WORLD GRAND PRIX

Agfa Vista, 'The Eye in the film', was one of the major sponsors of the World Women's Volleyball Grand Prix held at the Araneta Coliseum July 19 to 22, making it the official film of the grand event. The sports event was telecast over IBC-13. The contract signing for the sponsorship took place at the mini press launch hosted by French Mediterranean Restaurant Cafes Provencal located at the Mega Strip, SM Megamall, and Mandaluyong City. Shown are (from left) Cherry Guevara, Photokina Marketing Corp. ad and promo manager, Louie Gepuele, Philippine Amateur Volleyball Association president, Malu Chan, PMC AVP for advertising, and Noli Eala, Arian Works Management Corp. president.

BITS & Clips

Alpha Phi Beta fellowship night

THE ALPHA Phi Beta Fraternity of the UP College of Law will be holding its monthly alumni fellowship today, July 26, at the Club Filipino at 6:30 p.m. All alumni and resident brods are invited. Cocktails will be sponsored by the UP Law Class '80 alumni brods. Entertainment will be provided by Jun Garlan. There shall be an open bar and corkage charges are waived. For inquiries, call brod Sim Buyco at 888-0999 or 888-1007.

Knowledge management audit

THE ACADEMY'S Productivity and Development Center is offering a one-day Knowledge Management (KM) Internal Audit for organizations with orientation on knowledge management. The KM Audit is scheduled July 26 or Aug. 1, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the venue of the requesting company. The KM Audit aims to identify the needs and gaps on knowledge management and actions to be taken towards implementing KM within the organization. Kim Leng Tan, managing partner of Knowledge Drivers International Singapore shall be technical consultant. For inquiries, call 631-2137 or e-mail cyrelsg@dap.edu.ph, attention: Cyrel San Gabriel or Corinne Bernaldez.

PAL flies RP bets

PHILIPPINE Airlines will fly to Hong Kong today, July 26, the country's two top Digimon players who will compete in the Digimon Asia Cup slated June 27 and 28 at Discovery Park. Vladien Tadeo and Renan Sta. Maria, grade 4 students of the University of Santo Tomas, will represent the Philippines in the Asian-wide tournament that highlights the Digimon 5th Anniversary Carnival Event. Tadeo and Sta. Maria will display their prowess in transforming Digimon characters into more powerful monsters against 18 other top-caliber competitors from 9 other countries. Aside from the trip to Hong Kong, Tadeo was awarded a Digimon product showcase worth P9,000, while Sta. Maria received a showcase worth P7,000. Accompanying the two are their parents and Lynard Longcop and Joseph de Leon of Ban Kee Trading, the exclusive distributors of Digimon toys.

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Notice is given that the intestate estate of the late FELICISIMA RELUCIO MAKALINAO was settled by the heirs by Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement with Special Power of Attorney per Doc. No. 178; Page No. 37; Book No. 116; Series of 2002 of Notary Public Gregorio D. David, Jr. of Manila.
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Garment buying office located in Philippine Stock Exchange Centre, seeks merchandiser to handle buying and development for major US retailers and brands, including one of the hottest and fastest growing menswear labels in the United States.

Candidate must have at least 5 years minimum experience in the industry and have a knowledge of woven tops and bottoms, knit experience would be good but not required.

Qualified applicants should fax their resumés to Mrs. Luz Cruz
Tel. Nos. 636-5562, 637-9232; Fax Nos. 941-0669, 637-9232

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

CENTRAL AZUCARERA DON PEDRO CERTIFICATE #119380 - 39.000 shares #114086 - 30.000 shares under the name of Tomas Go were declared lost. If no contest is received w/in 1 year new certificate will be issued.
(PDI - July 19, 26, Aug. 2, 2002)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER (NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

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BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
dti

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of STANDARD MILESTONE CORPORATION with office address at UMS Compound, F. P. Felix Avenue, Cainta Rizal for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as Expanding Export Producer of Garments at a capacity of 197,286 dozens per year with plant site at same office address stated above has been officially accepted on July 11, 2002 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/ her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 11th day of July 2002.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
Director
Project Evaluation and
Registration Department

(PDI - July 26, 2002)

SHERWOOD HILLS GOLF CLUB

The following members / shareholders cannot be reached at their last known addresses and/or telephone numbers. If you have information where the Club might be able to get in touch with them, please call or write us at:

The Membership Secretariat
c/o Jo Vidal or Aida Reyes
Sherwood Hills Golf Club
Brgy. Cabezas, Trece Martires City
Tel nos. (046) 419-0671 and (046) 419-0578
Fax no. (046) 419-0591

1. Yun, Seok Bae
2. Rodriguez, Jose
3. Hong, Myung Suk
4. Matsumoto, Sachio
5. Lee, Sang Min
6. Santero, Amado
7. Prisno, Eliseo Lucero
8. Son, Jong Kyu
9. Delos Santos, Jose

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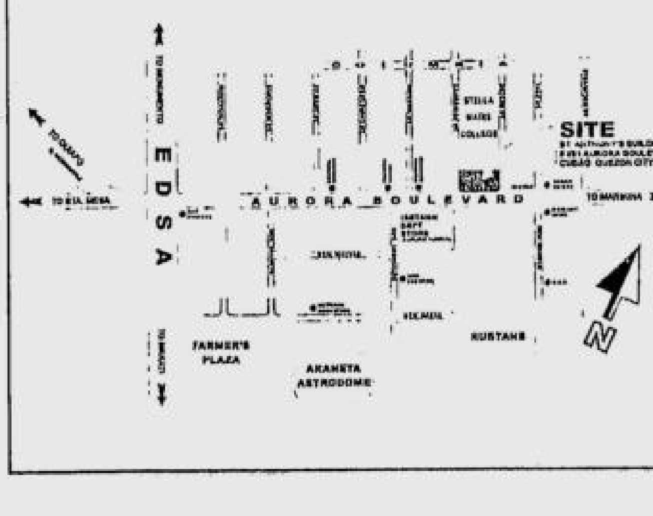

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Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

IN THE MATTER OF AMENDING THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF SECTION 1(a) (2) OF RESOLUTION NO. 5011

x-----------------------------------x

Chairman Benjamin S. Abalos, Sr.
Commissioner Luzviminda G. Tancangco
Commissioner Rufino S. B. Javier
Commissioner Ralph C. Lantion
Commissioner Mehol K. Sadain
Commissioner Resurreccion Z. Borra
Commissioner Florentino A. Tuason, Jr.

PROMULGATED:
July 23, 2002

RESOLUTION NO. 5450

This pertains to the Memorandum No. 2002-07-053 dated July 17, 2002 of Commissioner Mehol K. Sadain, recommending the amendment of the last paragraph of Section 1(a) (2) of Resolution No. 5011 thereby extending the period within which the local government units shall pay per diems/honoraria to BETS, DECS Supervisors and Support Personnel, and Precinct/City/Municipal Treasurers.

The Memorandum of Commissioner Sadain reads:

"In connection with the memo dated July 12, 2002 by Acting ARED for Region XI, Atty. Pedro G. Reganit, Jr. to the Honorable Chairman informing that "the Chief Executive of the Local Government units (in the Province of Davao del Sur) were not able to come to an agreement on how much is the share to be given by the Provincial Government to the Municipal Government, hence he is requesting the Commission to extend the fifteen (15)-day period within which to pay the per diem and honoraria, as provided for in Section 1, last paragraph of Resolution No. 5011.

According to Atty. Reganit, the LGUs have yet to schedule a session day to enact the necessary Appropriation Ordinance to appropriate funds to pay those mentioned in Resolution No. 5011.

In view of the foregoing recommendation and the possibility that payment be provided by some local government units, undersigned Commissioner recommends as follows:

1. *For the Commission to amend the last paragraph of Sec. 1 of Resolution No. 5011, to read as follows:*

   'The per diems/honoraria mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 above shall be paid by the Treasurers of the local government units concerned within thirty (30) days after election day.'

2. *For the Commission Secretary to immediately draft a resolution on the above amendment and submit the same to the Commission En Banc for appropriate action.*

Section 1(a) (2) of Resolution No. 5011 reads as follows:

"Section 1. Share of local government units in Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Election expenses.

(a) All local government units shall share in the election expenses as follows:

1) Pay the per diems/honoraria for the election related work of the following:

a.) Members of the Board of Election Tellers XXX XXX XXX

b.) DECS supervisors (principals, district supervisors, and administrators) XXX XXX XXX

c.) DECS support personnel (clerks, messengers and utility workers) XXX XXX XXX

d.) Provincial/city/municipal treasurers XXX XXX XXX

2) Pay the honoraria of the Board of Canvassers (only one BOC for both the barangay and sangguniang kabataan canvassing) at the graduated rate as follows:

XXX XXX XXX

The per diems/honoraria mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 above shall be paid by the treasurers of the local government units concerned within fifteen (15) days after election day.

XXX XXX XXX

The Commission **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES**, to amend Section 1(a) (2) of Resolution No. 5011, to now read as follows:

"Section 1. Share of local government units in Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Election expenses.

(a) All local government units shall share in the election expenses as follows:

1) Pay the per diems/honoraria for the election related work of the following:

a.) Members of the Board of Election Tellers XXX XXX XXX

b.) DECS supervisors (principals, district supervisors, and administrators) XXX XXX XXX

c.) DECS support personnel (clerks, messengers and utility workers) XXX XXX XXX

d.) Provincial/city/municipal treasurers XXX XXX XXX

2) Pay the honoraria of the Board of Canvassers (only one BOC for both the barangay and sangguniang kabataan canvassing) at the graduated rate as follows:

XXX XXX XXX

The per diems/honoraria mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 above shall be paid by the Treasurers of the local government units concerned within thirty (30) days after election day."

The Education and Information Department of the Commission shall cause the immediate publication of this resolution and the Executive Director shall immediately furnish copies to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government; the Secretary of the Department of Education; and the regional, provincial, city and municipal officers of the Commission with instruction for them to furnish copies to the local government units within their jurisdictions.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

RALPH C. LANTION
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

on official business
FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI - July 26 & Aug. 2, 2002)

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CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
wishes to announce its
INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID
on the following:

1. **Supply of 4 sets of Load Breaker and Switches**
2. **Supply of 1 unit Theater Lighting Console and 1 unit 32 Channel Mixing Console with power supply**
3. **2 units 16mm film projectors and 1 unit audio/video surround receiver**
4. **Services of Land Surveyor/Appraiser to survey CCP 35 hectares property/boundary lines etc.**
5. **Repair of the Folk Arts Theater (FAT) Waterproofing**

Prospective bidders may secure Checklist of Pre-Qualification Requirements from Mr. Ed Duque, Office of the Vice President, Cultural Center of the Philippines, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City at Tel. Nos. 832-3680 or 832-1125 local 1101. Deadline for submission of requirements is on Wednesday, 7 August 2002 until 6:00 PM.

The CCP reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof without offering any reason, waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government, and the right to confiscate the bid bond and/or pursue appropriate legal action should the winning bidder refuse to accept the award

Further, the CCP assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in participating to the undertaking nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) DENNIS N. MARASIGAN
Chairman, CCPBAC

(PDI – July 26 & 28, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT
PROCUREMENT SERVICE SYSTEM
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY, SHORT LISTING AND TO BID FOR THE GOVERNMENT ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT SYSTEM (G-EPS) PROJECT

The Department of Budget and Management - Procurement Service ("DBM-PS") is conducting a public bidding of the Government Electronic Procurement System ("G-EPS") Project, to select a single Service Provider and technical partner for a period of five (5) years to:

- provide an Internet-based G-EPS service to replace the existing Pilot EPS;
- roll out the required additional functionalities in manageable stages;
- supply related implementation and operational services; and
- provide technical planning and implementation services for other related applications.

This is the second invitation to interested parties to apply for Eligibility, Short Listing and to Bid for the G-EPS Project, which carries a modification of the Eligibility and Short Listing requirements. The Requirements for Eligibility and Short Listing for the Public Bidding of the G-EPS Project may be secured from:

THE SECRETARIAT
Inter-Agency Bids and Awards Committee ("IABAC")
Department of Budget and Management - Procurement Service
PS Conference Room, 2nd Floor
Madrigal Compound, RR Road, Cristobal Street
Paco, Manila
Philippines
Telefax No: (632) 563-9359
Contact Person: Ms. Rita P. De Castro
Head, IABAC Secretariat
Website: www.procurementservice.org

The said requirements shall be available at the above address during regular office hours, as well as at the above-indicated website, until **AUGUST 14, 2002 (Wednesday), 5:00 p.m.**

All responses to the Eligibility and Short Listing requirements must be submitted on or before **AUGUST 15, 2002 (Thursday), at 10:00 a.m.** to the CHAIRMAN of the IABAC, at the above-mentioned address. Only parties who pass the Eligibility Check and are Short Listed shall participate in the actual public bidding for the G-EPS Project. Short Listed Prospective Proponents shall be notified accordingly, and they may purchase the Request for Proposals for the G-EPS Project upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (Php 25,000.00).

For Short Listed Prospective Proponents, the Pre-Bid Conference is on **SEPTEMBER 5, 2002 (Thursday), at 10:00 A.M.**, and the deadline for the submission and receipt of proposals shall be on **OCTOBER 14, 2002 (Monday), at 10:00 a.m.**, both at the above-mentioned address.

The Approved Budget for the Project is Two Hundred Fifty Million Philippine Pesos (Php 250,000,000), which shall be sourced from the funds of DBM-PS.

DBM-PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the Eligibility and Short Listing requirements and to this invitation. DBM-PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO P. OPIDA**
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI--July 26 & August 1, 2002)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
North Luzon TransCo

BAC-RCMO-2002-07-138
July 22, 2002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Project No. ELIG2002TRANSCOLI327

All parties interested to participate in the bidding of SECURITY SERVICES for the following offices and installations are hereby invited to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid with the National Transmission Corporation - North Luzon Transco. Only eligible applicants shall be invited to participate in the bidding.

ELIG2002TRANSCOLI327 : Supply and Security Services for:

Package 1 :
- a. Kadampat S/S - Bolo, Labrador, Pangasinan
- b. Old Labrador S/S - San Gonzalo, Labrador, Pangasinan
- c. Cabanatuan S/S - Sumacab Este, Cabanatuan City
- d. Mangaldan S/S - Mangaldan, Pangasinan
- e. Carmen S/S - Carmen, Rosales, Pangasinan

APPROVED AGENCY ESTIMATE (AAE) : Php 14,042,656.56

Package 2 :
- a. Botolan S/S - Santiago, Botolan, Zambales
- b. Mariveles Load-end S/S - Mariveles, Bataan
- c. Morong Load-end S/S - Morong, Bataan
- d. Tarlac S/S - Concepcion, Tarlac

APPROVED AGENCY ESTIMATE (AAE) : Php 7,942,881.60

Package 3 :
- a. Cruz-Na-Daan S/S - San Rafael, Bulacan
- b. Baesa ROW and Demo Site, Baesa, Quezon City

APPROVED AGENCY ESTIMATE (AAE) : Php 6,841,475.04

Package 4 :
- a. PSMD-North - Poro Point, San Fernando City, La Union
- b. Laoag S/S - Laoag City, Ilocos Norte
- c. Currimao S/S - Currimao, Ilocos Norte

APPROVED AGENCY ESTIMATE (AAE) : Php 5,357,109.12

Application for Eligibility and to Bid is extended to all private Security Agencies which are:

(a) Actively registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and/or Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
(b) With regular License to Operate issued by the Security Agency and Guards Supervisory Division (SAGSD), Philippine National Police (PNP); and
(c) Have been operating for at least two (2) years and have actually and continuously posted at least two hundred (200) guards during the past two (2) years immediately preceding the submission of application for eligibility.

All incumbent service contractors who are interested to participate in the Application for Eligibility and to Bid are required to apply for eligibility.

Contract period is for two (2) years unless sooner terminated.

Eligibility documents will be available for issuance from ***August 7, 2002 to August 12, 2002, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO), National Transmission Corporation, North Luzon TransCo, Second Basement, Plaza Natalia Building, 51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City, upon submission of:*** (1) an application addressed to the CHAIRMAN, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) c/o RCMO, (2) certified true copy of Applicant's License to Operate and presentation of its original copy for authentication, (3) presentation of NEWS AD clipping, and (4) payment of non-refundable fee of Six Hundred Pesos (P600.00) per Package. Requests by mail, fax or telegram will not be entertained. Submission of duly accomplished Eligibility Forms and Bid Documents shall be on **August 21, 2002 from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM only at RCMO, North Luzon TransCo. official time is RCMO's clock.**

The eligibility conference will be on **August 19, 2002, 9:00 AM** at NLRO Conference Room, Second Floor, Plaza Natalia Building, 51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City.

National Transmission Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all applications for eligibility and to bid without offering any reason, waive any defect therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

All documents to be submitted must be addressed to THE CHAIRMAN, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), c/o MR. JAIME G. MATEO, Section Chief, Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO), North Luzon Transco, National Transmission Corporation, Second Basement, Plaza Natalia Building, 51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City. All additional information shall be furnished upon request at the address given above at Tel. No. (074) 445-4546.

(Sgd.) **FLORENDO C. DE LUNA**
Actg. Manager
Administration Division
North Luzon TransCo

(PDI – July 26 & August 2, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
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E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

PROPERTIES FOR SALE/LEASE

The Social Security System is offering for sale/lease the following real estate properties:

PRYCE TOWER
Pryce Business Park, Bajada, Davao City

CCT No.	Floor	Location	Area (sqm)	Selling Price
1 636	14th	Penthouse Ph-2A	245.92	P 11,558,240.00
2 637	14th	Penthouse Ph-2B	261.35	12,283,450.00
3 638	14th	Penthouse Ph-2C	208.70	9,808,900.00
4 639	14th	Penthouse Ph-2D	249.29	11,716,630.00
5 640	15th	Penthouse Ph-1A	245.92	11,558,240.00
6 641	10th	Suite # 107	137.19	6,447,930.00
7 642	10th	Suite # 106	117.36	5,515,920.00
8 568	10th	Suite # 105	203.44	9,561,680.00
9 569	10th	Suite # 104	139.14	6,539,580.00
10 570	10th	Suite # 103	120.21	5,649,870.00
11 571	10th	Suite # 102	116.15	5,459,050.00
12 572	10th	Suite # 101	125.76	5,910,720.00
13 573	7th	Suite # 076	117.36	5,515,920.00
14 574	7th	Suite # 073	120.21	5,649,870.00
15 575	7th	Suite # 072	116.15	5,459,050.00
Parking Slots				495,000.00/slot

Pryce Business Park
Bajada, Davao City

Lot No.	TCT No.	Area (Sq.M.)	Selling Price
1 Lot 2	331351	900	P 19,440,000.00
2 Lot 5	331352	1090	23,544,000.00

Josefina Town Center, Davao City
Brgy. Dumoy, Talomo District, Davao City

Lot No. Blk No.	TCT No.	Area (Sq.M.)	Selling Price
1 Lot 5 Blk 5	331311	780	P 3,198,000.00
2 Lot 3 Blk 2	331302	1010	4,141,000.00
3 Lot 5 Blk 2	331304	766	3,140,600.00
4 Lot 6 Blk 2	331305	768	3,148,800.00
5 Lot 2 Blk 3	331307	755	3,095,500.00
6 Lot 1 Blk 3	331306	755	3,095,500.00
7 Lot 2 Blk 2	331301	1010	4,141,000.00
8 Lot 8 Blk 5	331314	699	2,865,900.00
9 Lot 9 Blk 5	331315	1500	6,150,000.00
10 Lot 1 Blk 2	331300	1010	4,141,000.00
11 Lot 3 Blk 1	331299	844	3,460,400.00
12 Lot 1 Blk 1	331297	844	3,460,400.00
13 Lot 4 Blk 2	331303	766	3,140,600.00
14 Lot 6 Blk 5	331312	700	2,870,000.00
15 Lot 4 Blk 5	331310	805	3,300,500.00
16 Lot 2 Blk 1	331298	844	3,460,400.00
17 Blk 4	331308	10157	41,643,700.00
18 Lot 10 Blk 5	331316	1500	6,150,000.00
19 Lot 3 Blk 5	331309	1117	4,579,700.00
20 Lot 7 Blk 5	331313	699	2,865,900.00

The Social Security System also accepts installment proposals under the following terms:

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(Sgd.) **GAMELIN Z. OCZON**
OIC Investments

(PDI--July 26 & 27, 2002)

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Dr. I De Leon Building
Pabayo-Pacana Streets, Cagayan de Oro City
Tel No (08822) 722-530
Grandstar News and Magazines
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Cagayan de Oro City
Tel No. (088) 857-2571/857-1812
Telefax (088) 231-3248
E-mail grandstar@hotmail.com
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Tel (064) 421-3264
Davao City
Dabaw Periodicals, Inc.
Duterte Street, Davao City
(fronting Galleria Hotel)
Tel No (082) 226-4406/221-3379/221-3424/226-2931

Babasahin ATBP.
Lower Level, Gaisano Mall, Bajada
Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza, Bajada
Davao City
Tel No (082) 221-3927/227-4410
General Santos
Mr. Ramon Dimalanta
GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
35 Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City
Tel Nos (083)552-3352
Telefax No (083) 301-8731
Pagadian City
Mr. Eduardo Villar Clavero
Edmar News - Advertising Agency
Bonifacio Street, Pagadian City
Tel No (062) 215-1448/214-2641
Zamboanga
Mr. James Heo
Marlen's Variety Store, 86-88 Sevilla Street
Zamboanga City
Tel Nos (062) 991-4294/991-1436
Mr. Ruben Bautista
#71 C Atilano Street, Zamboanga
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☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
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ROSARIO "ROSING" VILLASEÑOR ABAYA

*Joined her husband **Meming***
in the peace of our Lord on July 23, 2002.

Her children **Marilou** and **Rogelio Caedo**; sister **Felicidad** (†); brothers **Luis** (†), **Ramon** (†), **Francisco** (†), **Reynaldo** (†), **Filemon** and **Luisito** (†); in-laws, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for her eternal happiness in heaven.

She lies in state at the family residence in 9 Rizal Avenue, Batangas City. Interment is on Saturday, July 27 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Basilica Imaculada Concepcion, Batangas City.

In memory

ANTONIO ROA MERCADO

(27 December 1934 - 26 July 2000)

In your kindness,
please offer the Holy Mass today
for the repose of Tony's soul
and in thanksgiving to God
for giving us Tony—
as husband, father, grandfather,
brother, friend, teacher and
corporate partner.

Let him easter in us,
be a dayspring to the dimness of us,
be a crimson cresseted east...
GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS

I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.
John 14:6

Dña. Loreto Zapanta de Marcaida Vda. de Miguel de Marcaida

Peacefully joined her Creator
on July 23, 2002 at the age of 89.

Her loving children **Tony** (†), **Nena** and **Louie Borromeo**; grandchildren **Luigi, Carlo & Magda, Vino & Annie, Maite & Rik Janssen**; great grandchild **Jaime**, request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Parish Hall of Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City until July 27, 2002.

Funeral Mass will be at 3:00 p.m. on July 27, 2002, after which her remains will be cremated.

DR. GERONIMO C. ENCARNACION

October 8, 1904 - July 21, 2002
(Beloved husband of the late **Esmeralda**)

His bereaved daughters **Teresita, Bernardita, Fe, Sonia, Gliceria, Estela & Marita** and their husbands; grandchildren and great grandchildren; sisters **Patrocinio** and **Deusdedit** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 27, 2002 at Manila South Cemetery after the 7:30 AM Mass at St. Andrew Parish Church, Bel-Air, Makati City.

Lydia Valeriano Sambrano

Died peacefully on July 23, 2002
at the age of 77.

Her bereaved husband **Fortunato**; children **Gloria & Bobby Reyes, Lulu & Ben Dela Cruz, Nestor & Vivian, Atoy & Rose, Ferdie & Jenny**; grandchildren **May, Dennis, Buena, Brener, Brendan, Carmella, Krizza, Carmina, Bebs, Paulo, Dianne, Hazel, Christian**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the family residence in 1104 Bambang, Bocaue, Bulacan.

Interment will be on July 27, 2002 after the 1:30 p.m. Mass at the Bocaue Parish.

Chief Engr. LUPO E. QUILLO

July 29, 1945 - July 17, 2002
Sta. Cruz, San Miguel, Iloilo

His wife **Evelyn**; children **Ivy Rose, Michael, Ulysses, Joey, Joy-Ann & Polyn Michelle**, relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 28, 2002, 1:00 PM at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City, Philippines.

EDUARDO L. SANTAYANA

(1924 - 2002)
Died July 24, 2002 at the age of 78.

His wife **Angelita**; children **Mellie** and **Carvy**, **Luni** and **Rody**, **Boy & Kits**, **Cecile & Caloy**, **Mar & Rico**, **Allan & Margie**; grandchildren **Paolo**, **Sinta**, **Penny**, **Likas**, **Marica**, **Dux**, **Rachel**, **Victor**, **Glyn**, **Lisa** and **Jessica**; brother **Robin**; sister-in-law **Patty**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina Chapels, Marikina City.

Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina on Sunday, July 28, 2002 at 10:00 AM.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Autism Society of the Philippines will be greatly appreciated.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, eventhough he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

ATTY. ISIDRO P. SABALLA

Peacefully joined the Lord
on July 24, 2002 at the age of 69.

His bereaved wife **Cecille**; sisters **Inday, Neneng, Baby & Nene**; in-laws **Bernie, Magdalene, Rene & Lina**; cousins, nephews, nieces and grandchildren; and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at his residence, No. 27 C. Lorenzo Street, Sto. Rosario (Kanluran) Pateros, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 28, 2002 at Garden of Memories, Memorial Park, Pateros after the 3:30 p.m. Holy Mass at Garden of Memories, Memorial Park, Pateros.

CEFERINA RIVERA CAMBA

Peacefully joined our Creator on
July 22, 2002 at the age of 87.

Her bereaved children **Zita-Takis, Cezar, Jr.-Warlyn, Alfeo-Marietta, Panfilo-Pina, Redempta-John, Lilit-Dani, Elging-Norma** and **Dino-Edna** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapels, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City and will be brought home to Bani, Pangasinan on July 28, 2002.

AUGUSTO LL. MAYOR

of Project 6, Quezon City
and Ferrol, Romblon

Died peacefully at the age of 73
on July 22, 2002.

His bereaved wife **GLORIA**; sons **VICTOR BRANDO & CEASAR**; daughter-in-law **CARMEN**; grandson **CHRISTOPHER**; brothers and sisters, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, relatives and friends mourn his passing, and wish him eternal rest.

His body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Quezon City.

Interment will be on July 28, 2002, Sunday, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Quezon City.

Our Dearly Beloved

ATTY. AGUSTIN V. AGUSTIN

of Tuguegarao, Cagayan

Peacefully joined his Creator
on July 21, 2002 at the age of 57.

His loving wife **Yolly**, children **Ziggy**, **Pia**, **JP** and **Ryan** and all relatives and friends remember him with love and request prayers for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

He will be laid to rest on Saturday, July 27, 2002, 8:00 a.m. at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me though he may die, he shall live.
And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die."
John 11:25-26

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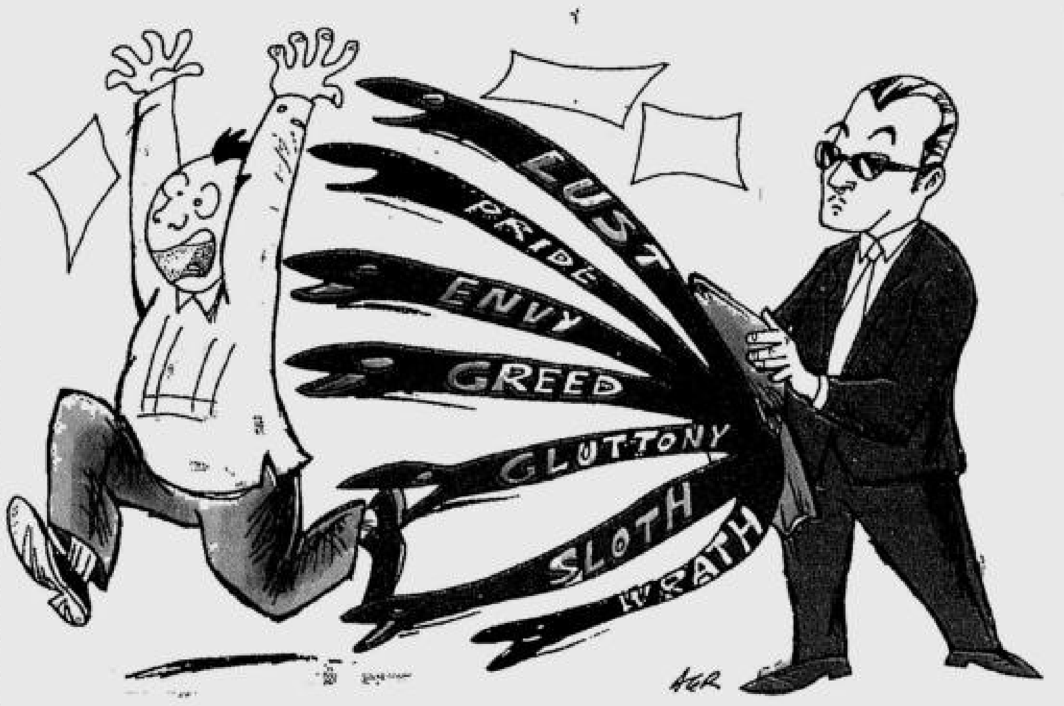
BUSINESSFriday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Seven deadly sins of pseudo-marketers

By Karen V. De Asis
Contributor



IN TODAY'S stressful competitive business environment, marketing has so suddenly become an all-important buzzword floated around by well-meaning business owners in the boardroom. Unfortunately, not many fully understand the strategic and creative process as well as significant resource commitment demanded by this business-building discipline. Sad to say, many still perceive marketing activities as costs rather than revenue builders. And if organizations decide to embark on marketing programs, it is not uncommon for many board groups and senior management to continue to associate marketing with the more mundane aspects of press releases, stockholder reports, distribution of posters and merchandising, exhibits and mall tours, occasional advertising, promotions, etc.

Expectedly, pseudo-marketers feed on this misperception. It is not beyond them to recommend a number of inexpensive and non-meaningful, non-strategic, low-impact marketing activities under the guise of cost management.

Ironically, amid the lack of strategic directions behind these activities, very few recognize that substantial amounts are wasted on misguided marketing every year. Companies must learn to recognize that marketing is no place for amateurs, the inexperienced, phonies and those who waste company resources on trial and error.

Similarly, it cannot be overly emphasized that organizations must be careful with the hiring consultants posing as marketing experts.

Becoming fully aware of the pseudo-marketer's seven deadly sins is one way of ascertaining the expertise of your marketing team.

Pride. Arrogance drives many key decisions of pseudo marketers. It is not uncommon for pseudo marketers to turn down potentially successful marketing programs because it does not fall within the realm of their previous experience and knowledge.

Pseudo marketers often refer back to personal, historical experience and refuse to acknowledge changes in the environment and customer needs and wants.

A classic example is that of Singer Sewing Machine which failed to recognize the growing number of women working outside of their homes and therefore no longer had the luxury of time to make their family's garments. It was too late when Singer Sewing Machine decided to expand its category to other furniture lines or explore other related categories that were more in sync with the modern woman's new lifestyle.

On the other hand, Schering Plough's allergy brand, Claritin, made a positive turnaround in its business when it began to acknowledge the importance of today's consumers in the healthcare decision making process.

Today, Claritin no longer focuses simply on physicians. In 1998 alone, Claritin was the most advertised drug. Schering Plough spent $182.9 million on targeting consumers and another $75 million on targeting medical doctors, yielding revenues of $1.7 B in sales.

Pseudo-marketers do not recognize the importance of discovering new customer insights and using consumer research tools that explore and validate these insights. They strongly believe that research will only confirm their own experience and therefore is a waste of resources.

Consumer research is not viewed as a tool to help dredge new insights but as a wasteful expense that merely documents previous learning. A pseudo-marketer's barometer of excellence is himself and his personal experience and not the customer.

Pseudo-marketers also fail to recognize their weakness, while not knowing their strengths. Yet, they live under the illusion of the Midas touch. Easycall, once the country's leading paging firm, acknowledged no less by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) in 1997, has yet to finally establish their identity in the market today as they fiddle between marketing the company's services as a call center at one time, an internet company the next and back to being a call center at present.

Lust. Self-control is truly a virtue of the experienced marketer. Founding chair of Nike, Phil Knight, resolutely refused to do a Nike category extension in the casual leisure shoe segment despite the brand's success.

Pseudo-marketers do not know the art and science of restraint. When faced with success, they know not when to stop. They lust after every available market, recognizing only the perceived short-term benefits and failing to understand the long-term implications.

When highly successful Chlorox bleach launched its extension into laundry detergent category, it was a dismal failure. Post-consumer research indicated that Chlorox bleach had a strong, powerful association in the consumer's mind that left them thinking that if they used Chlorox laundry detergent on their regular clothes wash, their clothes would come out colorless.

Envy. One of the pseudo-marketer's greatest mistakes is being a copycat, closely modeling after a competitor's product or service. Pseudo-marketers do not recognize that the essence and success of marketing lies in the offer of a perceived differentiated product or service. Theirs is a perceived short-cut approach to riding the bandwagon of success established by the first-mover brand not knowing that by being a "me-too brand" they are fast digging their grave.

One such example is the local New Jersey Roasters, an exact replica in identity and product offer of Kenny Rogers Roasters.

Avarice or Greed. In a fit of self-importance, phony marketers beguile business owners to thinking that they can build successful brands by being everything to everybody and wasting limited company resources in a multitude of directionless marketing activities.

One of the most successful airlines today is Southwest Airlines founded by Rollin King and Herb Kelleher. Southwest Airlines is focused on short-haul flights within the United States, offering the lowest possible fares and no-frills operation that gets passengers to their destination when they want to get there on time and with lots of fun while flying the airline.

Southwest Airlines has clearly defined its niche and positioning as a fun, value-for-money airline. Despite its success, it has not aimed to compete with the bigger carriers like Northwest Airlines, Continental and American Airlines.

Gluttony. Pseudo-marketers do not realize the value of having ethical and professional competition. They continue to believe in the Stone Age thinking that the mark of a successful brand or business is to gain monopoly of the industry.

Therefore, it comes as no surprise when pseudo-marketers heavily endorse marketing programs that buy market shares, encouraging price subsidies and substantial price cuts that can eventually destroy the entire industry.

Extremely short-term in nature, every product or service sold through these programs do not gain the company in net revenue but on the contrary, incur a loss for the company.

Pseudo-marketers fail to recognize that the presence of competitive brands help legitimize the entire industry and encourage greater acceptance of new products and services.

Sloth. It is not uncommon for market leader companies to simply enjoy the fruits of their success. Unfortunately, in so doing they lose their competitive spirit.

It is the responsibility of committed, impassioned marketers to egg on the company's competitive spirit. Ironically, pseudo-marketers enjoy the glamour of the moment but fail to look forward to the future. Foresight is never a virtue of the pseudo-marketer.

Araneta Center was the best place to shop in the '70s as it was the biggest and fully air conditioned shopping center. The other shopping area was in Manila which had individual stores. But Araneta lost out to the huge investments made in retailing by mall magnate Henry Sy and the Ayalas. The Gokongweis followed later.

Wrath. Anger and boiling tempers make one forget about the virtue of prudence. Composed and collected are the attributes of the skilled marketer. A professional marketer makes an incessant study of the customer market but weighs the significance of every learning. The professional marketer is less prone to reactionary marketing programs characteristic of the unskilled pseudo-marketer.

Pseudo-marketers come and go. But the debris of tempest they leave behind is certain to destroy the company and waste its limited resources. If the negative impact is not immediately visible, it is likely to be felt in the immediate future. *(The writer is a professor of Marketing Management at the De La Salle Professional Schools Graduate School of Business.)*

The new funeral home ads: Dying to make you laugh

BORDENTOWN—Death is no laughing matter. But that doesn't mean the undertaker can't have a little fun selling his services.

Take the Huber-Moore Funeral Home in this central New Jersey town. It's been running newspaper ads featuring director Bill Huber in full clown costume, with curly blond wig and shiny, big, red nose.

"Bill Huber. Part-time Shrine clown. Full-time human being," reads the copy under a photo of Bill, who plays the clown at children's parties organized by the Shriners philanthropic fraternity.

Another ad for the company's other funeral home features a photo of funeral director Deb Tolboom in her full choir gown.

Huber, who is 67, became "Willie the Clown" 30 years ago as a break from his career as a mortician and former county medical examiner. But it was only this year that his laughing persona was featured in a series of ads for what has traditionally been a deadly serious profession.

"Hopefully, we're getting back to the human side of the business. I'm a human being, I have emotions, too," he said.

Of course, he doesn't appear in clown costume at wakes and funerals, but the idea of the ads is to humanize what many people still regard as a taboo subject.

The spots, created by the Potter, Katz, Postal & Ferguson agency of North Hollywood, California, also come as funeral homes and cemeteries are having to hustle more for business.

Although the death industry would seem to be one of the safest in economic hard times— since people are always dying—it has become harder to survive in recent years.

The increasing number of people choosing much cheaper cremation over elaborate caskets and funeral services, has taken a bite out of profits.

Reuters

New filing deadlines for tax returns

By Jose R. Matibag
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

DID you know that there are new guidelines for filing tax returns and paying taxes?

The Bureau of Internal Revenue recently issued Revenue Regulations No. 4-2002 (RR 4-2002) amending the due dates for the filing/issuance of certain tax returns.

The new regulations also specify the forms to be used in certain transactions as well as the new attachments to the returns to be filed.

One of the features of RR 4-2002 is the extension of the time for filing the Monthly Percentage Tax Return, Monthly Value Added Tax (VAT) Declaration and the payment of the corresponding taxes.

Based on the new rule, the Monthly Percentage Tax Return (BIR Form No. 2551M) and Monthly VAT Declarations (BIR Form No. 2550M) shall now be filed not later than 20 days from the end of each month.

The payment of taxes due on those returns shall likewise be made within that period.

RR 4-2002 also applies to taxpayers who file their returns and pay their taxes electronically. For taxpayers enrolled with the Electronic Filing Payment System (EFPS), the e-filing of returns and e-paying of taxes shall be five days later than the due date prescribed in the new regulations.

It is important to note, however, that RR 4-2002 does not cover all kinds of percentage tax returns. The returns for the following percentage taxes are not covered by the new rules:

Tax on Overseas Dispatch, Message or Conversation Originating from the Philippines (Sec. 120)

Amusement taxes (Sec. 125)

Tax on Winnings (Sec. 126)

Tax on Sale, Barter or Exchange of Shares of Stock Listed and Traded through the local stock exchange or through IPO (Sec. 127)

The regulations provide that the returns for these percentage taxes shall be filed and corresponding taxes paid within the periods stated in the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC).

Another significant feature of RR 4-2002 deals with the formal requirement and the due date for the filing of the Monthly Remittance Return of VAT and Other Percentage Taxes Withheld (BIR Form No. 1600).

According to the regulations, the withholding agents for VAT and percentage taxes shall fill out BIR Form No. 1600 for the remittance of the tax withheld. After preparing that return, it shall then be filed and taxes paid within 10 days following the end of the month when the withholding was made.

In accordance with RR 4-2002, the VAT withholding agent shall use BIR Form No. 1600 instead of BIR Form Nos. 2550M/2550Q (Monthly VAT Declaration/Quarterly VAT Return) for the remittance of tax withheld.

RR 4-2002 clarified that BIR Form Nos. 2550M/2550Q would be used by the income recipients in the declaration of their monthly/quarterly taxable and non-taxable sales/receipts.

The new regulations also accelerated the deadline for the filing of the Quarterly Remittance Return of Final Income Taxes Withheld on Fringe Benefits paid to employees other than rank and file. Prior to the issuance of RR 4-2002, the return for final withholding tax were filed and the payment made within 25 days from the close of each calendar quarter during which withholding was made.

The new regulations now require that the fringe benefits tax imposed under the NIRC shall be treated as a final tax on the employee. The tax shall be withheld and paid by the employer on or before the 10th day of the month following the calendar quarter when the fringe benefits were granted.

On the other hand, taxpayers under the EFPS shall e-file their returns and e-pay the taxes due five days later than the date prescribed in the regulations.

The period for the issuance of the Certificates of Creditable Taxes Withheld at Source (BIR Form No. 2307) for VAT and percentage taxes has also been extended.

BIR Form No. 2307 shall be accomplished by the withholding agent, specified copies of which shall be given to the seller/payee not later than the 10th day of the following month.

It is provided that for percentage tax withheld by the payor on winnings and prizes under the NIRC, the certificate to be issued by the withholding agent shall be the Certificate of Final Tax Withheld at Source (BIR Form No. 2306) which must be issued upon request of the payee.

In sum, the revised deadlines for filing of returns and /or payment of taxes are as follows:The requirement as to attachment of BIR Form No. 2307 shall be implemented for returns due for filing after March 31, 2002. On the other hand, the new deadlines for the filing of returns/forms shall apply to March 2002 returns that were due to be filed last April 2002.

The filing of BIR Form 1603 (FBT Returns) for large and non-large taxpayers and of BIR Form 1600 for large taxpayers will be covered by the new regulations starting the quarter or month of April 2002.

A person or entity who fails to issue BIR Form No. 1600 shall be subject to mandatory audit of his/its withholding tax liabilities. Violation of any other provisions of the new regulations shall be punished under the pertinent provisions of the NIRC.

Returns	BIR Form No.	Due dates Filing and/or Payment
Monthly Percentage Tax Return	2551M	•Not later than 20th day following end of each month •For taxpayers under EFPS, 5 days later
Monthly VAT Declaration	2550M	Same as above
Monthly Remittance Return of VAT and Other Percentage Taxes Withheld	1600	•Within 10 days following the end of the month the withholding was made •For taxpayers under EFPS, deadline extended for additional 5 days
Quarterly Remittance Return of Final Income Taxes Withheld on Fringe Benefits paid to Employees other than Rank and File	1603	•On or before 10th day of the month following the calendar quarter in which the fringe benefits were granted •For taxpayers under EFPS, 5 days later
Certificate of VAT Withheld at Source	2307	Not later than 10th day of the following month
Certificate of Percentage Tax Withheld at Source	2307	Not later than 10th day of the following month

Small and medium enterprises that made it big

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao
(First of two parts)

THE ABILITY to march on despite adversity, work hard, endure sleepless nights and anxiety, grab opportunities when they present themselves are some of the qualities that mark successful small and medium-scale enterprises.

Throw in a generous dose of luck and perseverance, then you have this year's crop of outstanding SMEs who were named recently by the Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development and the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Council.

The SMEs were chosen based on customer satisfaction, quality of their products, market development, social responsibility and compliance with environmental safety standards.

Mayat-An Handicrafts

Outstanding Micro Enterprise

Named this year's Outstanding Micro Enterprise is Mayat-An Handicrafts of Benguet, which has made it its duty to help preserve the traditional ethnic designs and skills of the Ifugao people through its products.

With a small capital of P7,000 in 1994, it started making the *binga* basket made of old bamboo called anes.

The anes, which is known among natives for its resistance to decay and pest attacks, are also combined with the traditional Ifugao fabric to produce other products such as bags and baskets,.

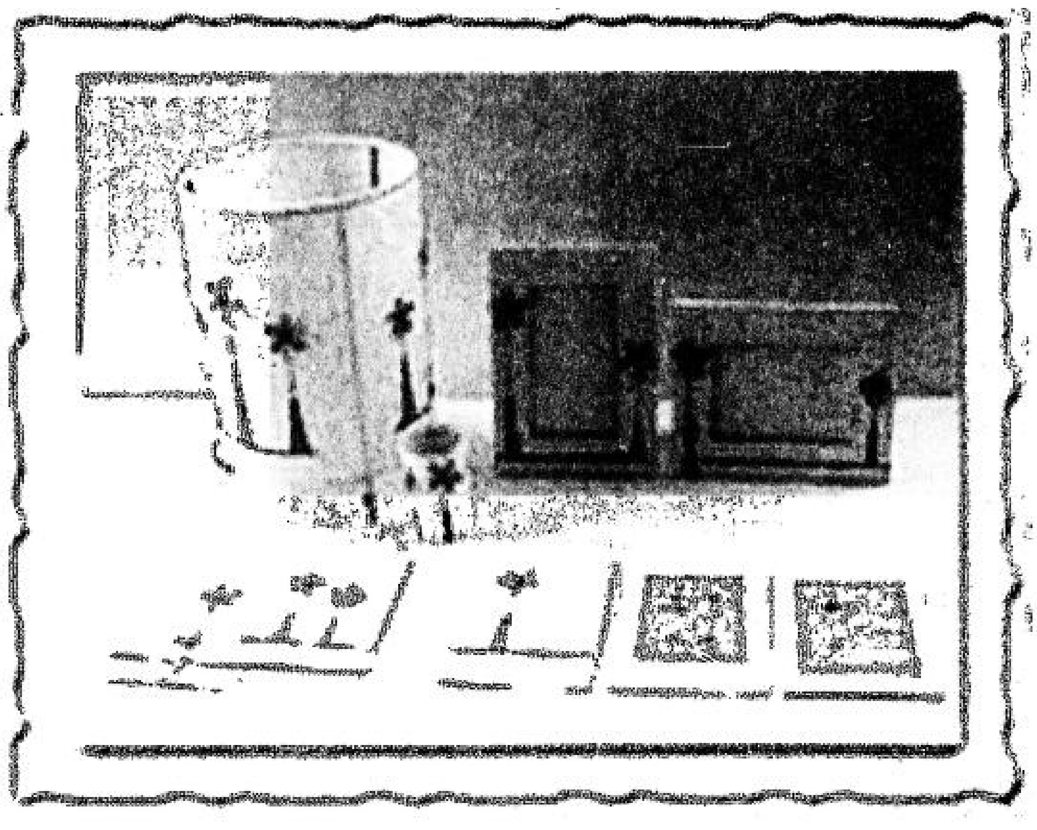
These became an instant hit in Baguio where Mayat-An set up shop and from there, the company now has assets of P1.4 million, mainly because of its jump to the export market two years ago.

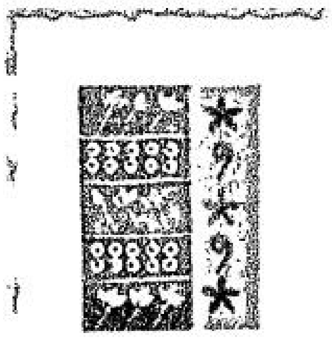
"We noticed that Filipinos do not appreciate our goods so much but we saw the market abroad because we got good response from foreign buyers when we started exhibiting in Citem fairs," says owner Rovilyn Mayat-An.

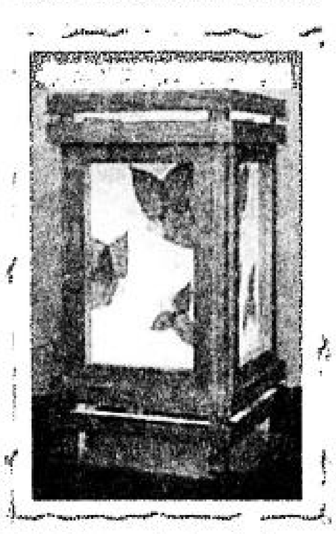
Mayat-An started with just five samples per show and the designs, plus the painstaking effort of weaving the anes and the cloth by hand caught the imagination of buyers from Japan, Italy and London.

The successful jump to the export market grew the company's workforce from just three to 71.

Mayat-An says she is proud because more people now get to appreciate the age-old traditions and lifestyles of the Ifugao.







SALAY Paper Industries Inc. has come a long way from its NGO beginnings

She attributes this to the quality of the product and the designs. She also said that Filipino firms should be aggressive in looking for markets and to compete head on with other countries.

"We must always think that we should be globally competitive even if we are a small firm because we have to compete with other sellers," she said.

She added that companies that want to penetrate the export market should try their best to keep their costs down, sacrifice part of the margin for more volume.

Designs should also be constantly updated to provide something fresh to the market all the time.

"You should always have something new so that you are ahead even if other people would come and copy your designs," Mayat-An stresses.

Salay Handmade Paper Industries Inc.

Outstanding Small Enterprise

Salay Handmade Paper Industries started from small beginnings in 1987 from the NGo, People's Economic Council, which was put up to help provide livelihood to the people of Salay.

Reynaldo Rafisura, a public health doctor, thought of teaching the people how to make handmade paper because he saw the potential during a visit to the Design Center Phils. in Misamis Oriental.

"I was amazed at how they could make products from cogon grass. I thought it would be good for us because we have a lot of cogon grass there and it is a waste product, an enemy of the farmers," Rafisura said.

The DTI helped train 50 people in the council but the product looked more like egg trays than paper, and people were discouraged. The council, however, did not give up and through

more

training and consultation, the Salay handmade paper from cogon was finally produced, primarily through the efforts of Rafisura's wife Loreta who was recuperating from cancer at that time.

Her enthusiasm proved contagious and soon the DTI made the Salay project its "baby" and arranged for Loreta and a worker to conduct a papermaking workshop in Japan.

A Japanese NGO took interest in Loreta's work and then donated funds for paper-making equipment. From there the project took off and Salay has now become synonymous with handmade paper.

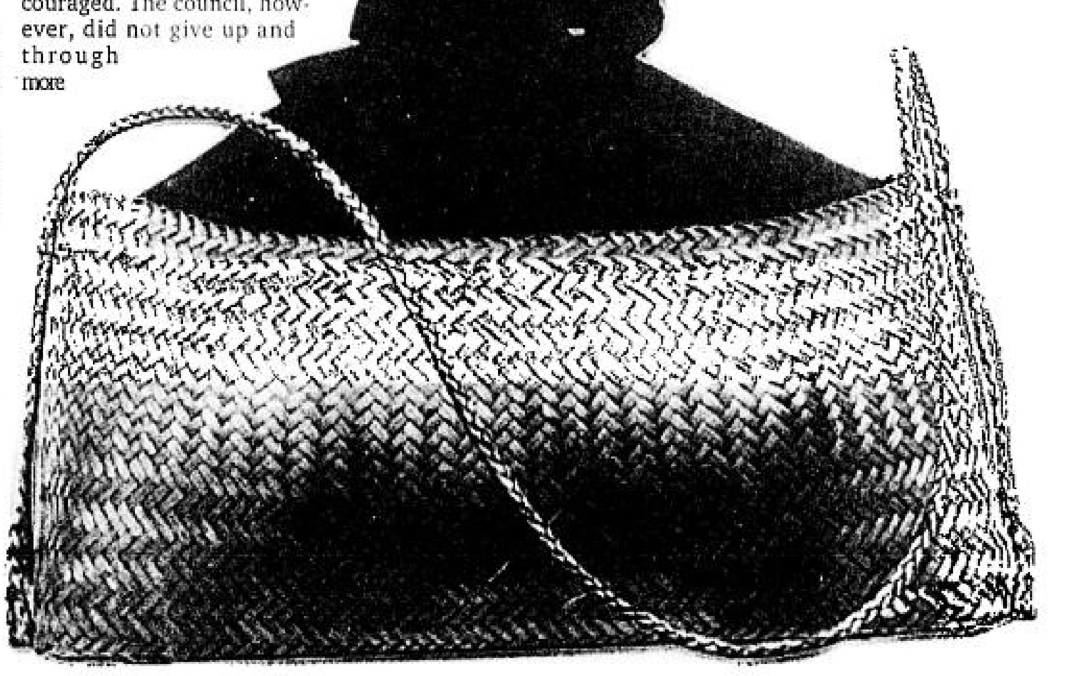
Its products are now exported to Japan, Europe and the United States and the factory has now moved out from a makeshift poultry house into a more modern enterprise.

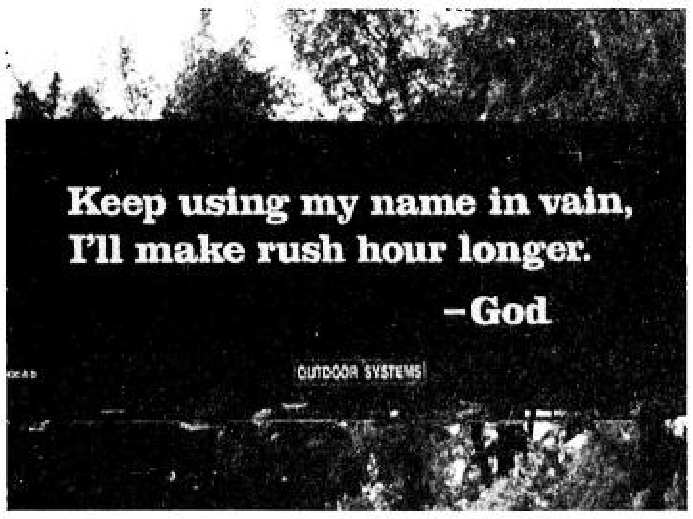
From 10 employees, Salay Handmade Paper Industries Inc. now has 379 people and they own 15 percent of the company.

"It was really a result of hard work, discipline and a lot of prayers and we are happy because we have helped provide livelihood to a lot of families in this small town 60 kilometers away from Cagayan de Oro," he said.

Rafisura offers this advice to budding exporters: keep on pushing to look for a market, find a niche and be good in that niche.

MAYAT-AN'S products showcase, the best of Ifugao's culture





OUTDOOR ads should catch attention of motorists

Outsell your competitor through outdoor ads

By Roger Pe
Contributor

IN an attempt to effectively reach their target market at the least possible cost, more advertisers nowadays have picked up on the idea of selling their products or services through outdoor ads.

Posters, pearl and deans, transit ads, airport, bus shelter and MRT station billboards, shopping cart panels, supermarket island displays, aerial banners, blimps, inflatables, elevator towers and parking lots are some of the most common outdoor media used today. And because these dominate the streets in high traffic areas, outdoor ads help deliver messages all-year round.

If the outdoor ad firms are to be believed, outdoor ads are effective because these bring customers close to the point-of-sale. Jollibee outdoor ads, for instance, point to the nearest Jollibee store.

Interesting outdoor ads are simple and use short words. And since the ads are more or less semi-permanent, think of the image you want to project for your brand. One tacky typestyle could ruin your image. Bright and contrasting colors could enhance your clarity. Use copy that goes direct to the point. The Citibank loan ad, for instance, shows the telephone number where consumers can call to ask about a personal loan.

In Metro Manila's highways, Globe's billboards for international roaming prepaid cards are riveting. Not only do these have visual impact, the ads also offer meaningful benefits to the consumers. The same can be said for this irreverent ad from Aboitiz that says *"Siguradong makakarating tulad ng tsismis."*

The simple but true-to-life message is hilarious, thus memorable.

When put to good use, outdoor advertising can enhance your brand's image, give you top-of-mind awareness and boost your sales.

Firm preserves beauty of local flowers

By Sharon Wendy A. Robas

THE name may sound French but its products are 100 percent "Made in the Philippines."

Le Gallerie de Fleur, owned by Lilia Buenviaje Lim and Rosa Galang Tan, started making decorative freeze and sun-dried flowers in October 1999.

Lim and Tan, who have known each other since the '80s, were inspired to go into the business when they saw exotic flower arrangements during travels to the United States. The two friends thought that there was a good market here for dried flowers because it offered a cheaper way for Filipinos to have flowers in their homes.

Lim and Tan personally went to a freeze dry company in the States to know the business first hand.

They quickly learned the process and were able to get manuals and other reading materials that helped them get started in the Philippines.

They immediately went into the training of people who would eventually become part of Le Gallerie as soon as they got back.

Although they did not have a store at that time, they had a factory and showroom in Fairview, which still exists today.

FROM left: Lilia B. Lim, Merchandise Mart's Cris Kennedy and Rosa Tan with Kennedy's children.

Their first big break into the market came when Pier I, a big merchandising company in the United States, asked Le Gallerie de Fleur to supply them freeze dried flowers.

They opened their first store at Glorietta 3 named Le Rosh Freeze Dry Florae Originals in December 2001. It sells freeze- and sun-dried flowers, grass, and other components for flower arrangements in frames and pots.

Process

Tan says that the process of making these products is simple, but takes a lot of creativity. After freeze drying the flowers in the machine for about three weeks, the workers have to arrange the flowers by hand using the trusty glue gun.

Tan shares that Le Gallerie's arrangements mostly use freeze-dried roses and sun-dried sunflowers because these do not easily break.

"Roses are used because they are sturdy and are just right for freeze-drying. Other flowers may be too soft and may not be able to produce good quality products," Tan says.

Tan says all their raw materials are sourced locally. Sun-dried flowers are usually bought from Quezon and Bicol while others are from Cagayan and Bulacan.

Once the flowers are dried, they are dyed before they are arranged into topiaries, wreaths and other artistic designs.

A worker can usually finish five to six arrangements a day depending on the complexity of the design.

Arrangements usually sell for between P65 and P2,000 depending on the size and the design.

LE Gallerie's Products

Bazaars

As member of the Philippine Export and Christmas Decorators Association, Le Gallerie has joined bazaars and trade exhibitions held here and abroad such as the ones arranged by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem).

Last July 2000, Le Gallerie was part of the Chicago Gift Show held at the Merchandise Mart. Tan says they are still studying the possibility of joining another trade exhibition in Hong Kong this coming October.

Barely seven months since they opened their first retail store in Glorietta, Tan claims that freeze- and sun-dried flowers have become popular among local and foreign buyers.

"Modesty aside, even if we're just beginners in this business, a lot of people appreciate the products that we sell. There were even foreigners who expressed interest in putting up similar stores in their country . . . others are inquiring how they can get started," Tan shares.

Raw materials

Tan says customers are attracted to these arrangements because of Le Gallerie's use of natural raw materials and the variety of the designs and arrangements. Tan, however, laments the fact that some Filipinos are still not that keen on buying something that is locally manufactured.

This does not stop the two friends from exploring other markets. Tan says Le Gallerie has gone into the manufacturing of give-away items for weddings and other occasions.

Le Gallerie also used to have a contract with ABS-CBN's defunct noontime show, "Talk TV," to showcase their wares as part of the show's set.

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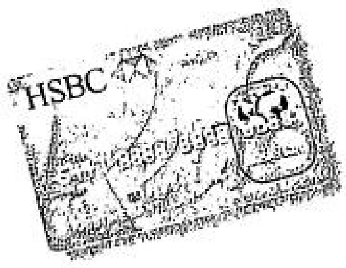

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BUSINESS

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Gov't scales down North Rail project

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BASES Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is planning to scale down the North Rail project from a high-speed train to a commuter railway to bring down its cost to a third of the original estimate and ensure its completion within two to three years.

BCDA president Rufo Colayco said the North Rail or North Luzon Rapid Railway Transit (North Rail) project was a key component of the planned integration of the Subic and Clark economic zones.

Without a railway that would connect Clark to Metro Manila, Colayco said the planned Subic-Clark expressway, the proposed development of a containerized terminal in Subic (which would hold 50 percent of the Manila port's capacity), and the development of an international airport in Clark would all be in vain if these were not connected to the country's capital.

Colayco said it was important to fast track the construction of the North Rail project before 2005 and 2006 which was the expected completion date for the expressway, port and airport projects.

By redesigning North Rail from a high-speed railway to a commuter train, Colayco said the BCDA would be sure of building the project on schedule (since the commuter train takes a shorter time to build) and at a third of the original $2.5-billion project cost.

Colayco said that while it was nice to have a rapid railway between Clark and Makati, the current situation called for a more modest project that could be undertaken by the government even without private sector support. Colayco said the government could still choose to build a rapid rail system in the future.

Colayco said the government has appointed Jose Cortez Jr. of Pacific Cement Corp. to steer the North Rail project.

The North Rail project has been on the drawing board since the Ramos administration but its private sector proponents, led by the Spanish Railway group, has failed to get the project on track because of funding problems, the harsh economic environment, and the government's inability to clear the way. The BCDA has taken charge of the project after the Spanish Railway group's contract on the project expired last year.

Based on recent discussions, the North Rail project is expected to be built in 2 phases—from Monumento in Caloocan to the Clark airbase in Pampanga; from Clark to La Union—and it would track the old Northern Luzon line of the Philippine National Railways which had been abandoned for decades.

RP debt yields remain flat

DEBT yields were flat yesterday as most participants stayed away from the market amid concerns about the government's planned review of its fiscal deficit target for the year, dealers said.

"Yields are at the same level as the previous day. Rates are just moving sideways. The market is still worried about the budget deficit," a trader from a foreign bank said.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said on Wednesday the government would review its budget deficit target for 2002 after posting a huge shortfall in the first six months of the year.

On Monday, the Department of Finance announced the deficit in the first half had grown to P119.72 billion, versus its target for the period of P78.26 billion.

"The market is wondering how the government will finance the deficit," another dealer said.

Traders said there were few successful transactions with players favoring the three-, four-, and five-year papers.

The three-year was taken at 9.4-9.5 percent and the five-years at 11.25 percent. The four-year bond was done at 10.5 percent. ***Reuters***

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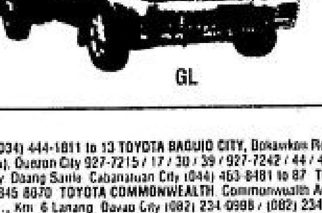
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Story on page C4

My kind of Guy

Story on page C6

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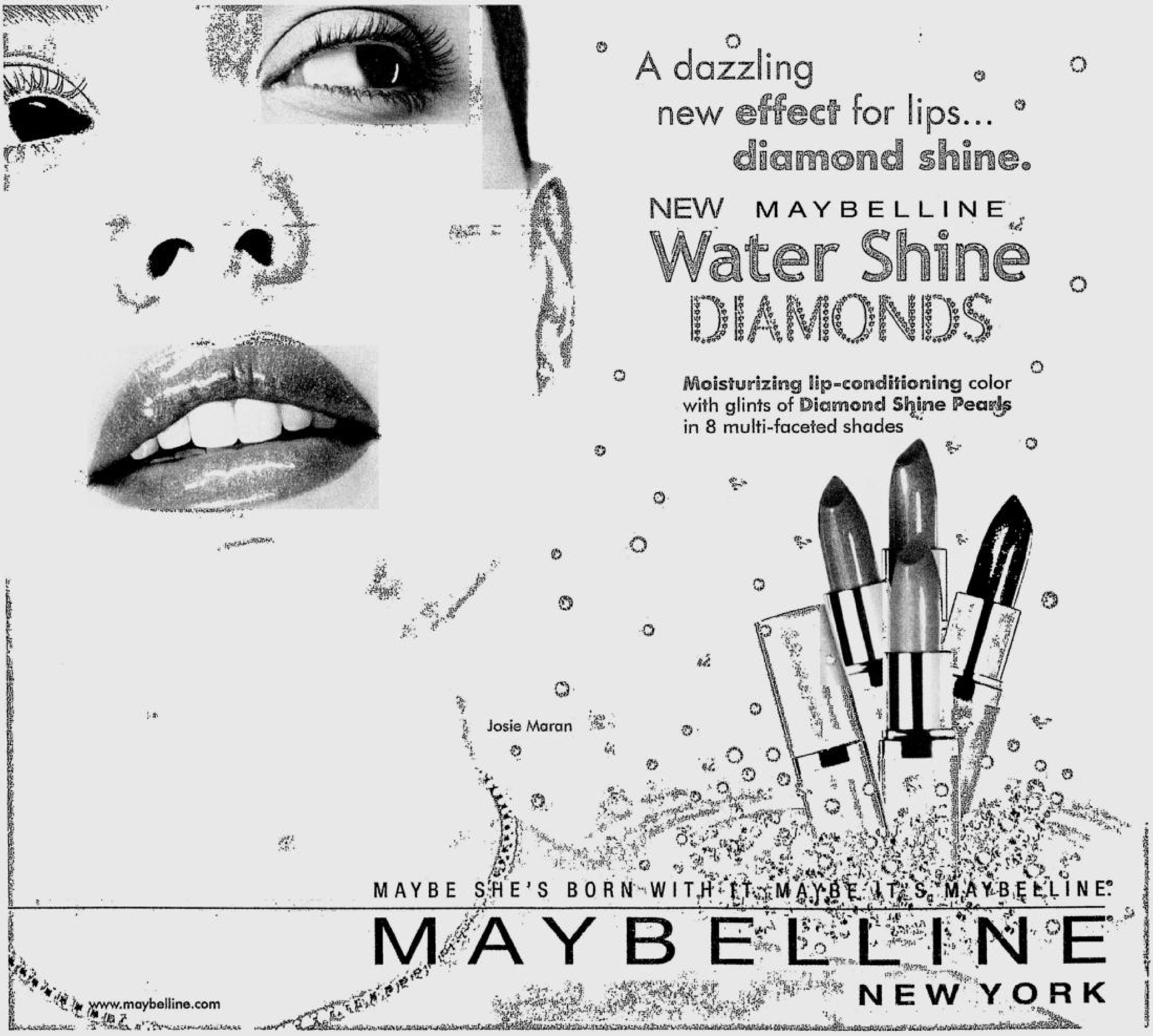

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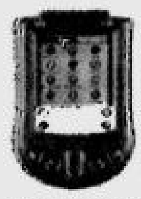

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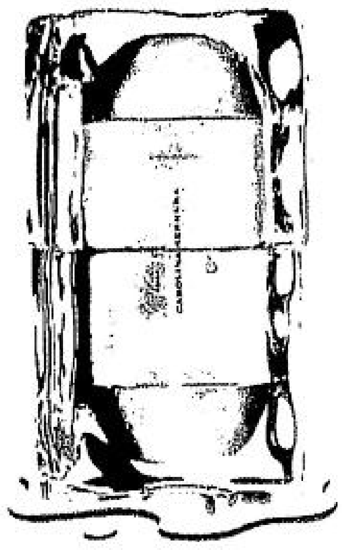

Fight the heat with 'freezing' fragrances and cosmetics

CAROLINA Herrera, designer du jour and the current queen of male and female boutique fragrances, turns to glacial landscapes to freeze over the intense heat.

Carolina Herrera heeds the call of the urban woman and comes with her fragrance line that drops below zero. With 212 On Ice, heat spells become a thing of the past.

To escape the heat, immerse yourself in the citric, floral and transparent aquatic notes of 212 On Ice—a unique combination that creates a fragrance that captures coolness with its originality and vitality, just like the woman sporting it. The glacial clear effects of Carolina Herrera's 212 On Ice eau de toilette showers the lady with vigor coming from its 60 ml bottle, priced at P2,450.

The refreshing effect of the fragrance extends to the whole body with the 212 On Ice Hydrating Body Freezer, a moisturizing lotion. All day long, the lotion becomes a breath of fresh air that caresses the skin, protecting it from relentless heat from the harsh wear and tear of the weather, time and the environment. Get the chill for only P850.

The active lifestyle of the urban man, on the other hand, reaches temperatures of unforgiving heat. Now it's time to cool off, with Carolina Herrera's 212 Men On Ice, a breather from the stressful combustion of the day to day city life.

As refreshing as a frozen fruit cocktail, the new fragrance 212 Men On Ice adds an invigorating touch to the original 212 Men. Faithful to the sensuality of its base notes (wood, musk and spices), 212 Men On Ice eau de toilette accentuates its citric character with a mixture of grapefruit and fresh mint. Coming in 100 ml bottles and priced at P2,800, the days of punishing heat are now numbered.

The fragrance is complemented by 212 Men On Ice Cooling Body Deodorant, a deodorant spray that, with its natural ingredients, is not only for use as a deodorant, but also a full-body fragrance mist. The versatile deo-spray keeps the body fresh for only P850.

The 212 On Ice line of fragrance and body care for men and women is available in all leading department stores nationwide.

3 new fragrance forms to spice up your day

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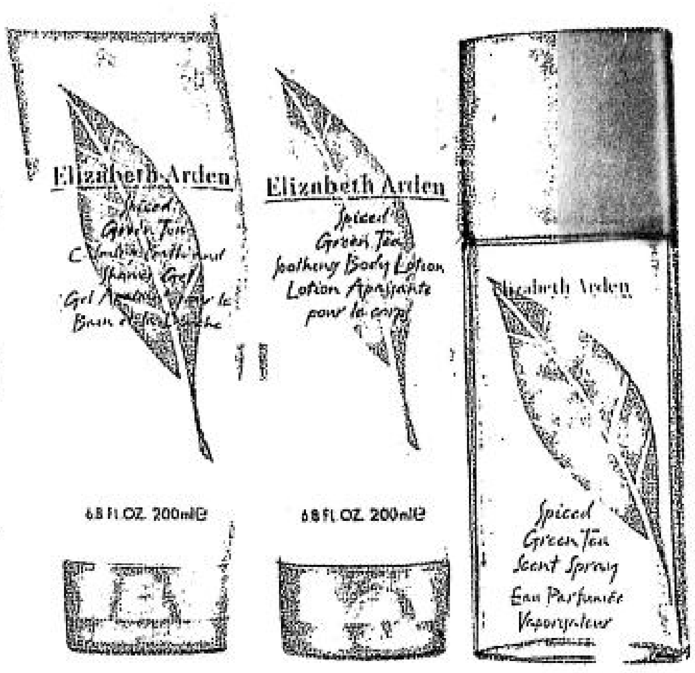
Elizabeth Arden Spiced Green Tea Soothing Body Lotion has calming spices and moisturizing benefits. Lather it on and feed your skin for only P850, in 6.8 fl oz tube dispensers.

Elizabeth Arden Spiced Green Tea Calming Bath and Shower Gel releases a potpourri of woods and spice for a tranqui bathing experience. The gel is available in 6.8 fl oz for P850.

The new Elizabeth Arden Spiced Green Tea Scent Spray continues with a new deluxe size. It comes in two spray bottle sizes, 1.7 fl oz for P1,750, and the 3.3 fl oz for P2,350.

Available at Elizabeth Arden counters nationwide. Exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corp.



Scent of spring

TRUE to the romantic tradition of Paris d'Yves Saint Laurent, L'eau de Printemps is a passionate and intensely feminine fragrance.

L'Eau de Printemps Paris d'Yves Saint Laurent is a radiant mist. As fragrant as a spring morning, L'Eau de Printemps is the magic of the sun's rays rediscovering blue skies, warmth and sparkling light with all the attendant images and scents, such as the redolence of roses sprinkled with dew.

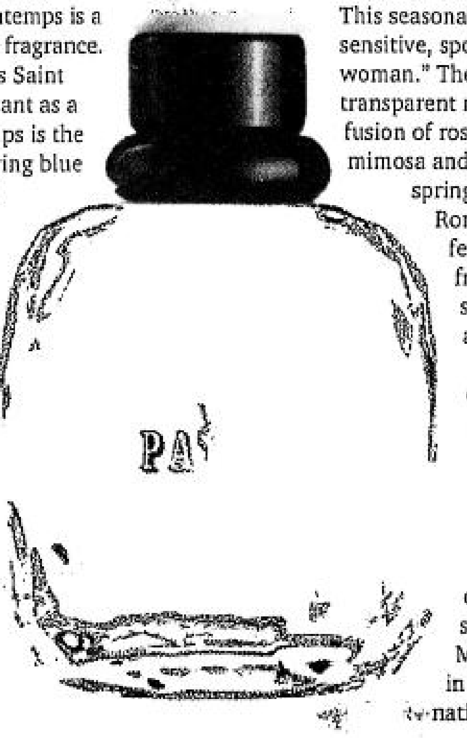
These are contained in a luxurious, lacquered, faceted glass bottle sheathed in rose pink. The gold of the original version is replaced by silver, a stylish, contemporary touch. The rose symbolizing Paris is lighter, almost flesh-colored, as elegant as it is romantic.

Inspired by the original fragrance, L'Eau de Printemps offers a light, contemporary version of Paris d'Yves Saint Laurent, with a 5-percent concentration. This seasonal version highlights the sensitive, spontaneous side of the "Paris woman." The light, delicate, almost transparent mist of Eau de Printemps is a fusion of rose, lily of the valley, violet, mimosa and orange flower in a bouquet of springtime colors and scents.

Romanticism, elegance and femininity characterize the fragrance, and ephemeral symbol of the season's softness and joy.

The base note is a subtle, ethereal, floral harmony with a dewdrop accord warmed and enriched by sandalwood, vetiver and sensual, mysterious musk to express passion and love.

L'Eau de Printemps Paris d'Yves Saint Laurent is exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corp. and is available in all leading department stores nationwide.



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Charm of silver

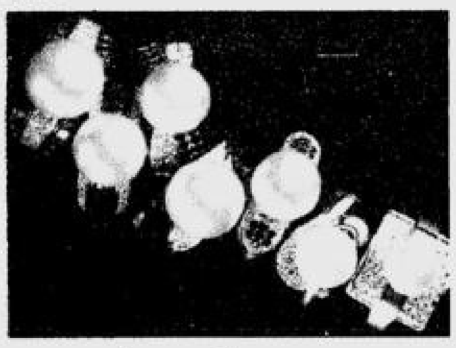
MICHELIS, the country's finest maker of authentic silver jewelry, believes the metal of luck is silver. A new variety of specially designed silver bracelets with charm pieces can suit anyone's mood or fancy. But the charms don't only serve as dangling accessories. Michelis believes they possess a certain "magical charm," which can also be bequeathed to you if you wear them often.

For love-struck girls who want to strengthen their love for a devoted partner, choose the bracelet with the charms of almond, key, daisy, fish, heart, frog and four-leaf clover. Each has a significant meaning: almond attracts undying love; a key unlocks the door to the heart; a daisy affirms love if there's an odd number of petals; fish brings luck, wealth and happiness to lovers; heart serves as luck in love; frog helps to find long-lasting love; and the four leaves of a clover stand for fame, wealth, good health and a faithful lover.

There is also the bracelet with acorn, chrysanthemum, fish, bean, wheel, horse and apple charms. It aims to enhance your personal growth. Acorn brings strength; chrysanthemum stands for perfection of the human spirit; fish brings luck, wealth and happiness; bean brings good luck all-year round; the wheel keeps bad luck away and attracts good luck; the horse lets you rise to new heights of achievement and happiness; and an apple brings luck, long life and knowledge.

This new set of special pieces have the same quality finish found in Michelis' sterling silver creations guaranteed to possess a minimum 92.5-95.2 percent level of purity required by the international market, and crafted according to European standards. What's more, they are an exquisite find for the youth, for they can get the pieces at surprisingly affordable prices.

Michelis' new jewelry collection is on display at their shops in the upper lobby of the Peninsula Manila and in Greenbelt. Call 812-3456 local 2996.



Jewelry showcases the best of Pinoy craftsmanship

NEW Life Jewelry, backed by more than four decades of jewelry manufacturing experience, a sensual color and product palette that expresses high-spirited elegance, refined beauty and superior handiwork, shows the best of Filipino craftsmanship and design.

True to its long tradition, Vie Nouvelle was created as the new name and branch for New Life Jewelry. It showcases a stunning collection that delivers an elegant mode and a multitude of dressy and funky styles for every mood, fetish and personality. Also exciting for the season are the variety of eccentric straps and the mixing of new materials including rubber.

Vie Nouvelle Bijoux is located at the basement arcade of the Peninsula Manila. Call 844-0822 local 2981.

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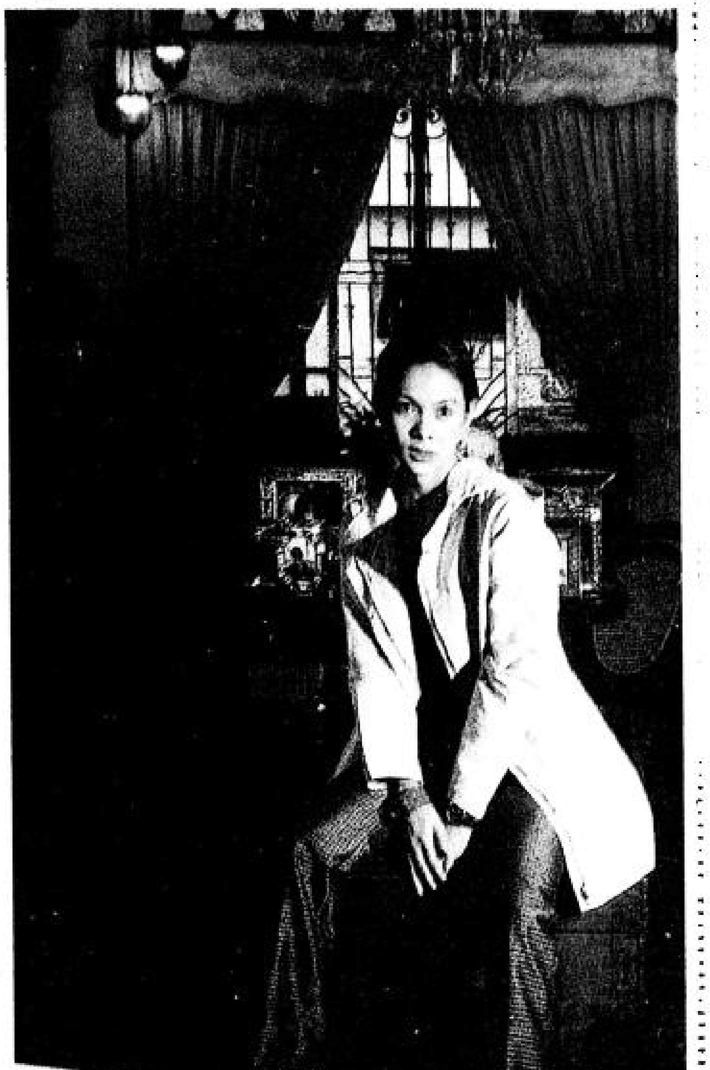
Get Duling from Morning to Evening.

Maduduling ka talaga sa dami ng mapapamili sa Greenhils Shopping Center, dahil from July 12 to August 12, 1,000 stalls ang tatambad sa iyo! Shop all you want from 10am to 8pm, and up to 10pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

Punta na sa Greenhills Mid-Year Bangketa Fair. Dali, bago ka mahipan ng hangin.

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER

BLACK ruffled jersey halter top from the *tiangge* over a black vintage Patrice Ramos skirt "which is 5 years old!" Angel says.



RAINY DAYS. Beige trench coat from Baguio *ukay-ukay* over Chinese silk pants from Linea Italia

Angel in th tiangge

Text by Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Mike Alquinto

UNCONVENTIONAL is the word that best describes television host Angel Jacob's uncanny eye for fashion. "I'm not a heavy brand name person," she. says one balmy afternoon while putting on her makeup amid the antiques that fill the Jo-Liza shop in old San Juan. "The more unmatched things are, the more that's me," she laughs.

Jacob has mastered the art of shopping on a budget and getting the best that money can buy. "I've found really fabulous clothes from the Greenhills *tiangge* and the *ukay-ukay* in Baguio," she says. Jacob herself has not been to the *ukay-ukay* but is blessed with many friends who do the shopping for her. "Those friends have brought me some of my favorite pieces and it's really a delight each time they get me a great shirt or blouse," she adds. Perhaps it also helps that the clothes she wears fit snugly on her trim 5'5" frame that she keeps lean either by indulging in punch-bag aerobics or walking to the Greenhills *tiangge*, which is close to her family home.

Comfort wear

For casual daywear, Angel likes to wear T-shirts and jogging pants with her favorite Nikes. "How comfortable, *'di ba?*" she asks. Most of her free time is spent with only daughter Arielle who is 8 years old.

For work, she likes to create unique and stylish combinations from her finds. "I'm not dictated by the match-match mentality. The less coordinated, the better," she says. Yet, she manages to pull it off as evidenced from the photos taken for this shoot. "I really love to dress in an unconventional, relaxed manner because that's who I am," she explains.

A sunny and positive, happy go-lucky disposition has seen Angel through some of the tough times in her life. "I try not to carry the burden of the world on my shoulders," she adds.

However, Jacob also likes to dress up whenever she has functions to attend. For formal wear she goes to Rhett Eala and for many years now, Henri Calayag has been doing her hair and makeup for those formal to-dos. Jacob though does her makeup most of the time and for this reason, she goes the extra mile to make sure that she has good skin.

"I see Dr. Sylvia Huang periodically for my skincare and I make sure to get eight hours of sleep every night plus I take lots of water. My makeup is bare minimum—just lip gloss and a little blush," she explains.

This unconventional dresser though has a passion for things vintage. Take the case of bags. Jacob loves to raid her mother's and her grandmother's closets, and her pride and joy is finding bags that date back to the 1940s but which continue to be stylish and classic. "I don't even buy bags anymore—my mom and my *lola* provide me with all the bags I need," she says.

Passion

Accessories are another passion and Angel loves to comb bazaars and again the Greenhills *tiangge* in pursuit of antique or vintage-looking jewelry. "Accessories really do a lot for someone's look. I like accessorizing with an interesting bracelet or watch, a unique neckpiece or earrings. Sometimes, she browses through magazines and has friend custom-make jewelry pieces for her.

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MIX AND MATCH. "These are for my funky moods." Tank top and black skirt by Ting Sycip, beige knit sweater from 115 in Glorietta, leather bracelet by Rhett Eala, silver bangle from Greenhills *tiangge*

SINGULAR STYLE

TV celebrity Angel Jacob has mastered the art of budget shopping but without sacrificing style

ANGEL ON MY WINDOW. Navy cotton cheongsam top from Baguio *ukay-ukay* over white rayon pants by Mphosis

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE
FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2002

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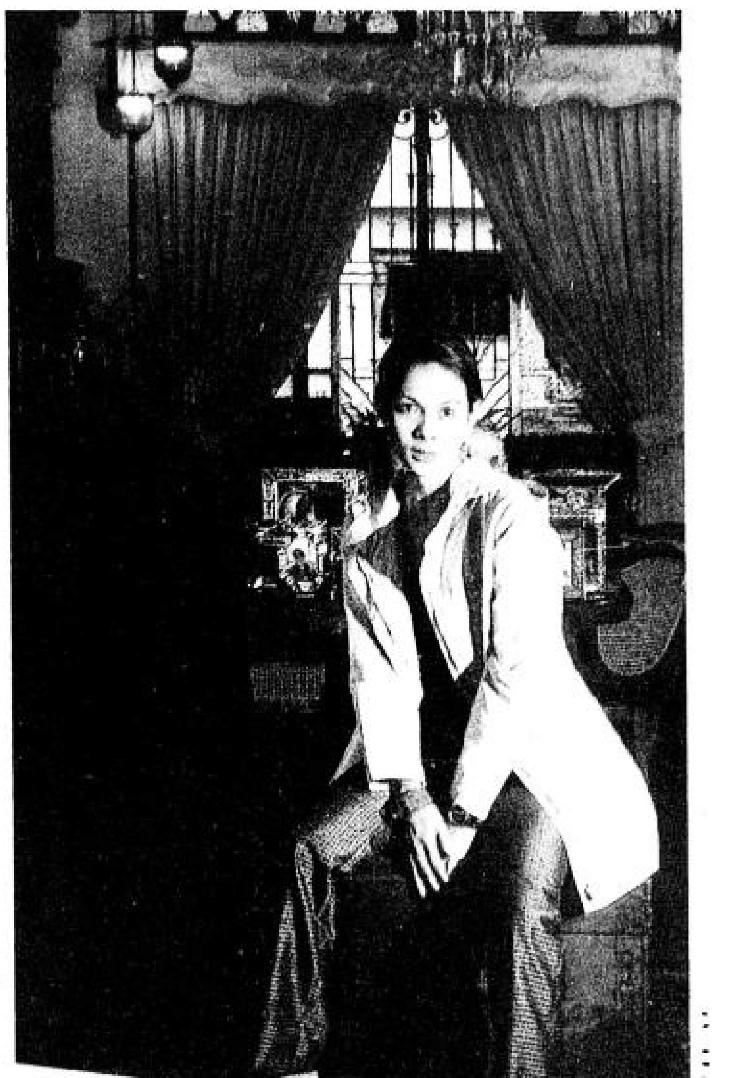

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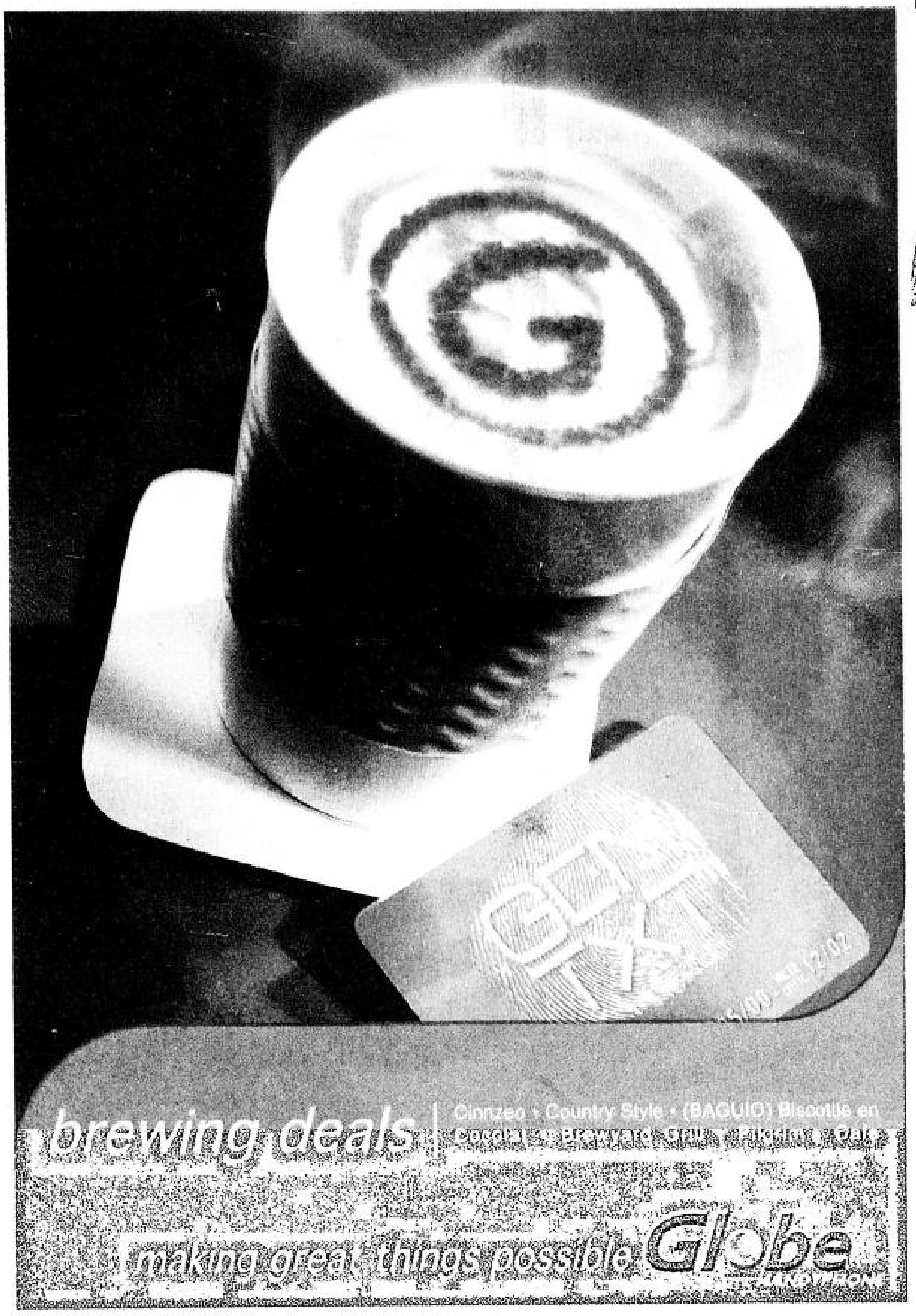
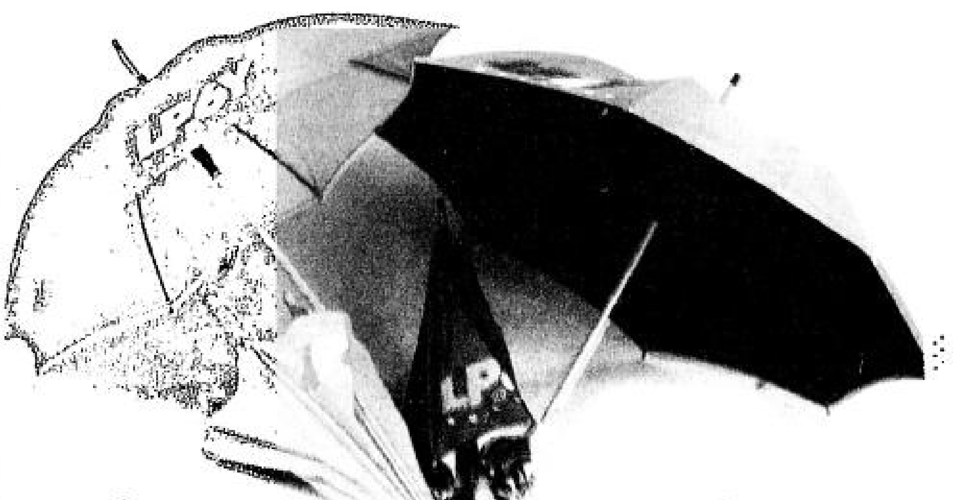


Cinnzeo • Country Style • (BAGUIO) Biscottie en Cocoa • Brewyard Grill • [illegible]



Color your moods

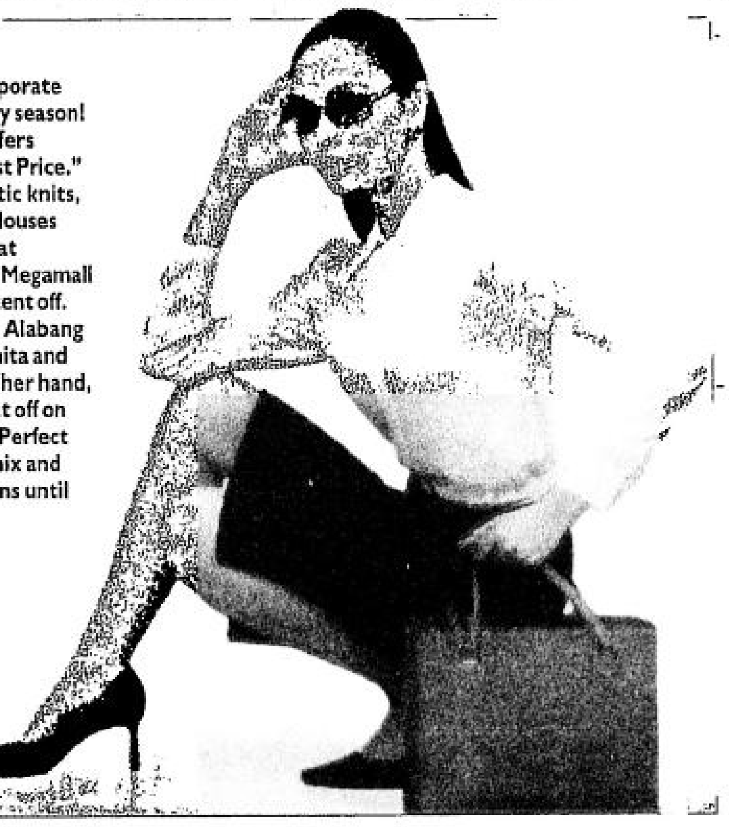
LOOKING for a brand that can show the colorful side in you? Then Lapagayo is the store for you! Known as Europe's colorful casual wear, Lapagayo offers fresh fashion to your somehow dull and drab wardrobes. Let loose of yourself and spark your way into their fun and colorful world.

Blush with lots of reds when you need that extra boost. Or simply glow with the sunny colors of their yellow and orange tops. Too stressed out? Then, flush it away with a serene tinge of green, or boo your blues away in style with shades of blue.

Colors scattered all over Lapagayo's flamboyant collection of shirts, pants, anoraks are surefire perks. Experiment and be a standout!

Now celebrating its sixth year, grab the chance to get enormous discounts. Save and have those cute shirts sprinkled with glittery colorful prints, chic pants and must-have jackets. A Lapagayo umbrella is up for grabs and comes free for every minimum purchase worth P3,500.

Visit all Lapagayo shops till Aug. 18 at Glorietta, Rockwell Power Plant, SM Megamall, SM Manila, SM Southmall, SM Pampanga and Robinsons Ermita.



SPICE up your corporate wardrobe this rainy season! The Black Shop offers "Great Buys at Best Price." Load up on fantastic knits, coats, pants and blouses from its branches at Greenbelt and SM Megamall and get 30-50 percent off. The Black Shop in Alabang Town Center, Ermita and Galleria, on the other hand, offer 60-80 percent off on knits and blazers. Perfect for adventurous mix and matching! Sale runs until Aug. 31.

Casual store opens 42nd outlet with fashion show

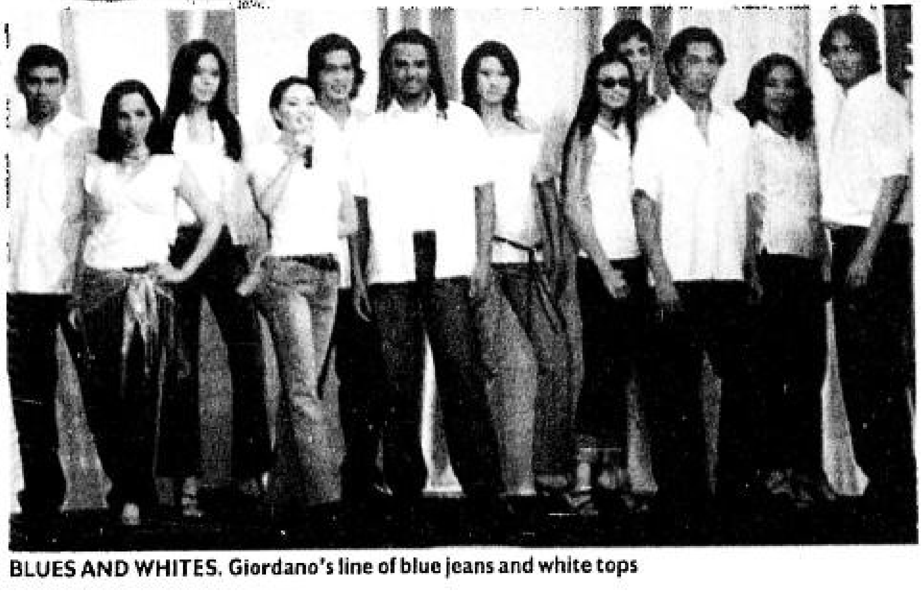
DENIMS and basic tee

WHILE weather forecasters predicted gray and gloomy skies all weekend, the fashion forecast at Giordano's Podium outlet on ADB Avenue, Ortigas, saw pastels, whites, khaki and sandblast blue taking center stage in a show to mark the brand's 42nd branch opening.

A dozen Cal Carrie models worked the runway in sportswear as streetwear, neutral-colored tops and bottoms, the timeless blue jeans and white shirt and other hot, head-turning combinations from the label that taught us how to dress up in dressed-down apparel.

Directed by Joey Espino, the Giordano Podium fashion show was a highlight of an evening that began with ribbon-cutting rites led by Pagoda Philippines' Mr. and Ms Ernesto Yu and JB Music & Sports' Beth Fernando. Giordano Phils. franchise owners Larry and Zita Lim then hosted a blessing and a buffet dinner, with SM Supermalls' Annie Garcia, INQUIRER advertising VP Pepito Olarte, FTV host Aliya Parks, Widescope managing director Vic de Vera, Giordano operations manager Joyce Sia, Giordano commercial space designer Dennis Lao, Belle and Al King, Girlie Taylor, Heidi and Matrix Bata.

ZITA and Larry Lim (third and fourth from left), vice president and president of Giodano Phils., with Belle and Al King



BLUES AND WHITES. Giordano's line of blue jeans and white tops

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GUY de Guy short-sleeve shirts in mint green and amber, and blue denims

GUY de Guy vintage denims, knit shirt and cap

GUY Laroche pleated slacks in brown and khaki

My kind of Guy

By Cheche V. Moral

IN A COUNTRY with a fashion penchant that is as fickle as its biggest market (i.e. women), Guy Laroche is taking on a different tack. First, it opened its freestanding store to cater primarily to male consumers. Second, its product line eschews trends "that come and go" and sticks to traditional, sensible styles with just the right measure of the contemporary thrown in.

"We saw the need for a luxury men's brand that is at the same time affordable," says Eileen de Guzman, general manager of Miwaki Phils. Inc., exclusive distributor of Guy Laroche (pronounced *gï laroosh*).

Before it opened its boutique on the ground floor of Power Plant Mall in February, no other signature men's label offered a ready-to-wear line for the brand-conscious Pinoy that didn't exactly make a huge dent on his checkbook.

THE GUY Laroche boutique at the Power Plant Mall

35-and-up

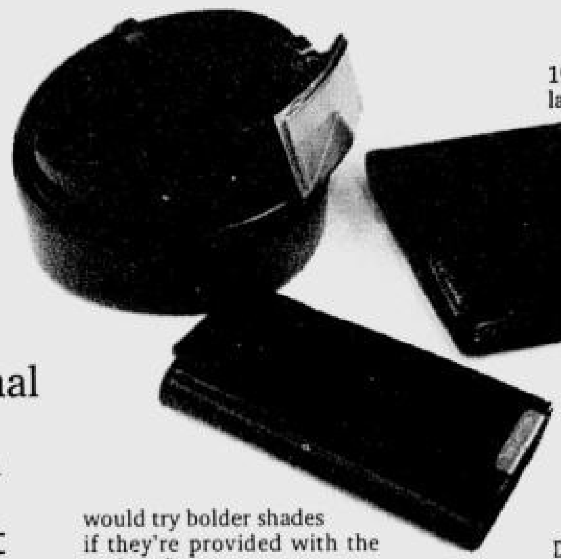
"We cater to the 35-and-up market," says Deborah Blum-Fory, Guy Laroche's (GL) area manager for Asia. The company adheres to the late designer Guy Laroche's idea of "real-life fashion"—traditional cuts, but with updated styling.

Apparently this philosophy addresses the Filipino male market. "They've been snapping up our long-sleeve business shirts," De Guzman says. "The shirts are comfortable as they are elegant."

The color palettes are generally understated—whites, blues, blacks, rusts—but some bolder, brighter tones are also introduced, such as pinks and mustards. "We are thrilled by the response," De Guzman enthuses. "It became evident Filipino men would try bolder shades if they're provided with the options."

Guy Laroche sticks to the traditional but with the right measure of the contemporary thrown in

EILEEN de Guzman, Miwaki Phils. Inc. general manager, and Deborah Blum-Fory, Guy Laroche area manager for Asia



She adds, "Our growing popularity among local buyers stems from the quality and value-for-money they get from us." A fine GL shirt can go for as low as P2,000+. Expats, she says, are just incidental clients "because they are familiar with the brand."

While GL's shirts are all in solid colors, its array of pure silk ties provides a delightful contrast. With modish and geometric prints, they are sure to enliven the plainest of shirts.

For casual or business dressing, GL has pleated and flat-front slacks that boast of a perfect fit and are available in browns, khakis, blues and blacks.

Younger line

Recently, the fashion house, established in 1956 by its namesake French designer, also launched here its Guy de Guy (pronounced *gï de gï*) line for the younger market. Offering a motley of woven and knit tops, vintage denims, raingears and stretch chinos, the 25-and-up consumers have been frequenting the Power Plant shop.

The styles are a mixture of "folklore, bohemian and a play of colors," says Blum-Fory. "Comfort and wearability are key so all the clothes are made of natural fibers."

The colors for the short-sleeve shirts are understandably more daring with stripes and checks in luscious shades of pink, purple, chartreuse, cobalt.

"They are big favorites," says Leni Delmendo, Miwaki's merchandising manager. "That's because our clients see that craftsmanship and details are not compromised, from the pockets down to the buttonholes," she says while showing a shirt's even and clean underside stitching.

With its vintage denims' retail price starting at P1,700+, they're much lower than inferior mass-market labels. Their mercerized socks alone sell for only P250 a pair.

"Can you believe our older clients also buy from the Guy de Guy line?" laughs de Guzman. "They've been asking for size 38s, which we didn't initially have because that wasn't our intended market. Now we know that it also appeals to them, so we're trying to augment our stocks for bigger sizes."

GUY Laroche finely crafted belts (above), wallet and key ring (left)

Leathergoods

Taking advantage of men's propensity for bringing a female companion when shopping for clothes ("because they need a woman's approval for their choice"), GL also included elegant bags and purses for women in its leathergoods collection.

For GL's main market, there is a wide variety of intricately made wallets ("with pockets for three currencies") and stylish silver- and gold-buckled belts.

"Majority of our merchandise are manufactured in Asia," says Blum-Fory. She says GL is well liked in this region because it's the only signature label that is priced mid-range. The biggest market, she says, is Thailand, where patronage for GL has been steadfast for 20 years.

Considering how fashion and trends come and go, Blum-Fory justifies GL's philosophy of sticking to classic styling: "We don't want to come and go; we're here to stay."

Glamour of Italian couture

MARKS & Spencer launched recently its newest ladies' line, per una, a collection created and designed by British retail guru George Davies. Per una, which literally means "for one woman," was made more outstanding by Italian-inspired tailoring and sophistication. Its Spring/Summer 2002 line was first shown at Marks & Spencer's freestanding boutique at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

With its individual size pattern cutting, a styling innovation designed to fit and flatter each and every female figure type and size, it has become a symbol of sensuality and confidence.

An equally important per una character is its penchant for highlighting key influences from the international catwalks. But to keep the per una touch, it applies its own signature of pristine tailoring and immaculate fabrics to interpret the trends. The line also showcases special edition clothes.

The per una collection carries chic tailoring and cool casuals, from dressy jackets and trousers to dresses, shirts, blouses, skirts and jeans. Such a coordinated collection is carefully designed to work together in creating exciting outfits, guaranteeing superb quality in design and manufacture with unbeatable attention to detail. Without a doubt, per una provides haute couture glamour.

The per una line of Marks & Spencer is exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Specialists Inc. (RMSI), the official franchise holder of Marks & Spencer in the Philippines.

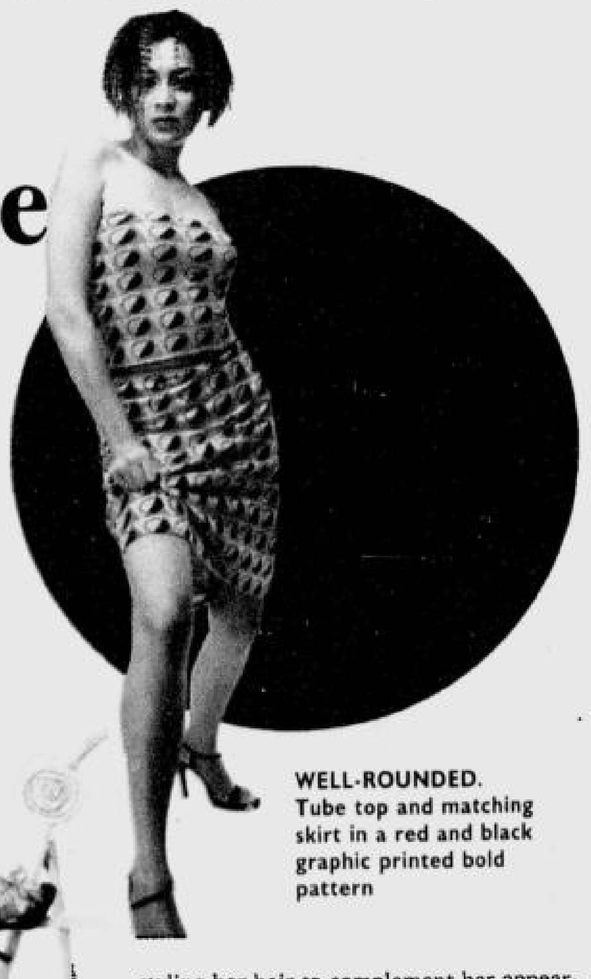
Colorful and feminine

MANY years back, the Momento store in Greenbelt Mall captured the clientele with the most spending power for imported labels, such as Bruno Magli, Iceberg and Rodo. To this day, Momento houses many imported labels in its posh location that was designed by architect Ed Calma. Located at 2/L, Glorietta 4, facing Cibo, Momento will celebrate its 12th anniversary in October.

One of its in-house brands is Kookai. Its latest collection is a free-spirited, ready-to-wear line that brings out the feminine factor that drives today's fashionable women.

She knows how to wear her animal prints in two-piece separates; she plays up her body structure through bold or graphic prints while styling her hair to complement her appearance. Most of all, she knows what character trait enhances the specific look that she would need that very moment.

Soft, free-flowing, bold and bright, Kookai's collection is the definition of how to make yourself known through your individuality. With a little bit of laughter and creativity, you can multiply your sense of fashion and beat those rainy days.


WELL-ROUNDED. Tube top and matching skirt in a red and black graphic printed bold pattern

FLIRTATIOUSLY FUN. Add a little attitude to your attire with a drop of color. Top: White cotton stretch top ¾ sleeves. Bottom: Black skirt with white polkadots and ruffled hemline

Overwhelmed by a wish coming true

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I am a lawyer and I come from the best law school in the country. I worked very hard to reach my dreams, and my efforts have not been futile. Thanks to the unconditional support of my family, I went to schools (of my choice) and my needs were provided for. But now that I am living my dreams, I find that satisfaction and fulfillment do not come easy.

Financially, I have been independent from the moment I had a job, which I got even before I passed the bar exam (thanks to the reputation of our school). My parents are very proud of me. What troubles me is that my job is very demanding. I wished to have big clients and I am getting them. My early performance was impressive so I am getting big accounts. But the task has become daunting and I am in a lot of stress.

While I thrive under heavy pressure, I certainly yearn for a much simpler and spiritually fulfilling work.

I cannot complain to my friends because they are constantly at risk of losing their jobs (think of the thinning volume of trading in the stock market). It would be hypocritical to deny that my current compensation is something to die for, but if only happiness and fulfillment could be bought.

Is there something wrong with the way I feel or am I just stressed out? I feel guilty feeling this way, but I can't deny it is tearing me apart. I don't want to bother my dad, and my mom is already peacefully by our Lord's side. My only brother has a happy family and now living in the US.

JERRY

A saying comes to mind: Be careful what you wish for because you just might get it. That's a good reminder that we ask for big things but do not fully realize the price we have to pay for them.

If you prayed to be one of the country's best lawyers, then it looks very much like you're on your way to becoming one. At this point, though, you have been shown the price tag and you balk.

Is what you're going through worth what you're after? If you dreamed of being a simple notary public, then you're paying too steep a price for it. But if you dreamed of being a lot more, then the bill you've been shown, in terms of hard work, is just about right. Titles like Chief Justice, IBP (Integrated Bar of the Philippines) president and "top-caliber lawyer" are not hereditary.

To me, if getting to a higher rung asks for brains, hard work and adrenalin in amounts that won't kill me or drive me insane, then it's all right. It's only when I'd have to give up my moral values that I'd find the ascent unworthy.

Few are given the chance to be where you are. One shouldn't be too quick to turn his back on such a challenge. I'd rather try then quit after knowing that I couldn't hack it, than spend the rest of my life wondering if I could have succeeded.

So give yourself a couple of years more. But don't feel that that's two years of hard labor. Get your work done not just through sheer energy and will power, but also through better time management and setting priorities. Also, have a regular schedule of stress-relieving activities, and stick to it. At the end of two years, you will be in a better position to judge whether you are where you want to be.

Wanted: scholarship assistance

I'm 26, a single parent with a 3-year-old daughter. I'm from a poor family. My father died when I was 9 and I was able to finish my studies by being a working student.

I originally enrolled in BS Secondary Education but, for financial reasons, I shifted to a two-year computer secretarial course. I was recently laid off and getting a new job is difficult because those with four-year degrees are preferred. That's why I decided to resume my BS Secondary Education course since teachers are in demand here and abroad.

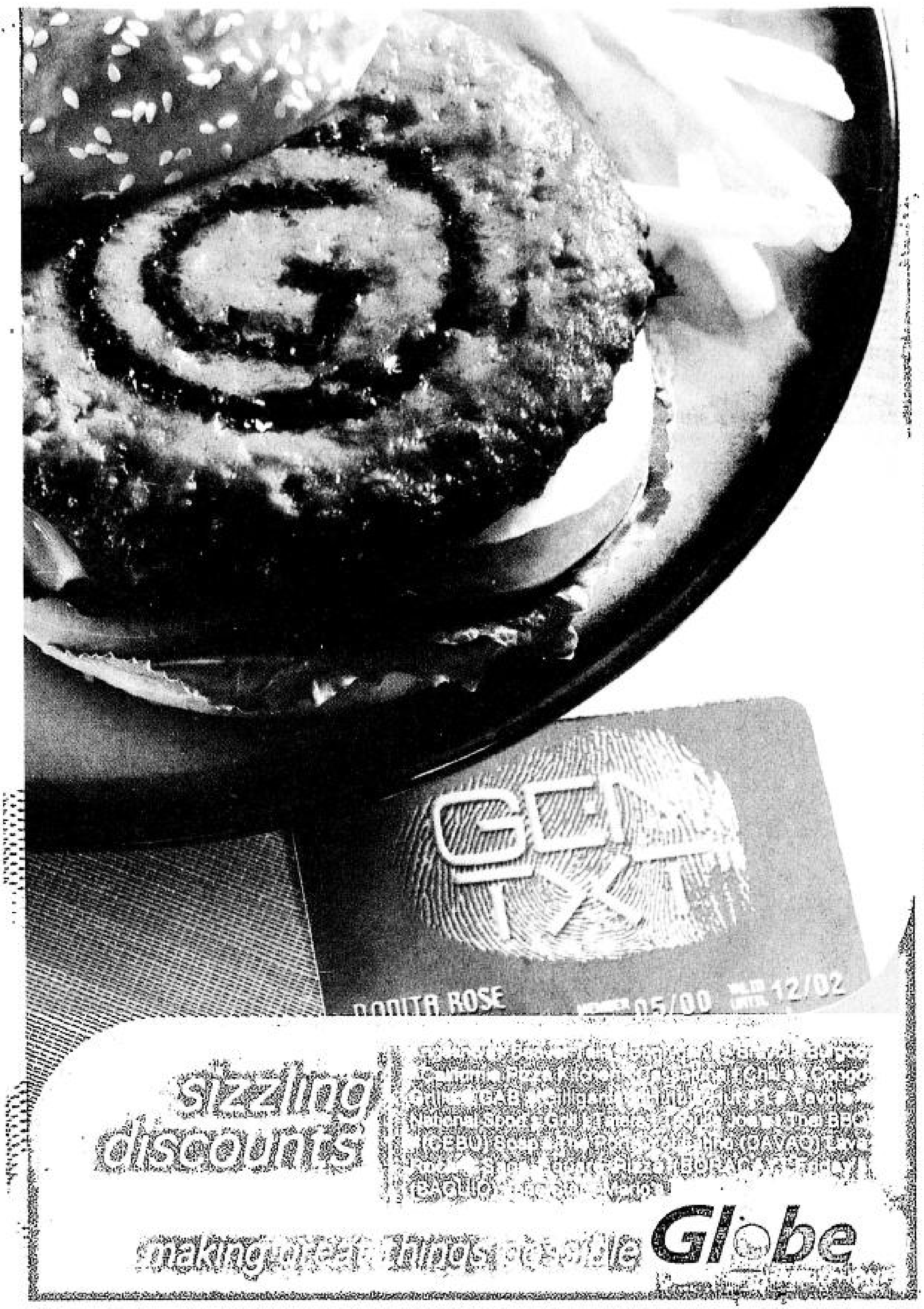
I passed the entrance exam at the AMA University last month. They have a student assistance program so I'll pay only P2,300 a month. I could also issue them a post-dated check covering the fees for one school year. But I couldn't afford even that.

I hope you and your readers can help me find a government or private scholarship. I'm praying, too, that I could enroll this September. Please help me.

CHINA

You impress me as capable, hardworking and highly motivated. A scholarship seems unlikely to be wasted on you. Let's hope readers with generous hearts respond.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City



Discounts galore

FOR THE MONTHS of August to October, Quiksilver and Surf World offer discounts of 20-50 percent on all products and a buy-one, take-one promo on all Globe/Gallaz shoes and Black Flys eyewear. Customers with the Raging Wave Card get a P1,000-gift certificate for free after completing the 10 boxes (with a value of P1,000 each) at the back of the card. Promo period is from Aug. 1-Oct. 31. Quiksilver Boardriders Club is located at level R2 of the Powerplant Mall, and Surfworld shops are located at 3/L, Megamall B, 2/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, and 2/L, Festival Mall, Filinvest.

GOINGS ON

BOOK FAIR. The Association of Booksellers for the Academe and the Professions (ABAP) will hold the first Bulacan Book Fair on Aug. 5-8 at the Baliuag University, Bulacan. The highlights of this four-day book fair are seminars for teachers and librarians. Call 927-9858, 926-4708, 435-5727, (0919) 239-9464, (0917) 248-3733 and (0917) 348-0292.

SEMINAR. The Center for Human Research and Development Foundation Inc. (CHRDF) will hold a seminar on "Approaches and Methods in English Language Teaching (ELT) Appropriate in Philippine Schools in the New Millennium," on Aug. 5-6, at the Baliuag University, Bulacan. Resource speaker is Dr. Rose Alonzo, associate professor of English Language Teaching at the College of Education, University of the Philippines, Diliman, QC. Call 927-9858, 926-4708, 435-5727 (fax), (0919) 239-9464, (0917) 248-3733 and (0917) 348-0292.

TRAINING. ProActiveCenter for Training (PACT) offers a workshop on fruit and vegetable carving on July 31, 1-5 p.m., at Bedas Restaurant, C-5, Libis, QC. Call 787-6370 or (0919) 550-0601.

PERFORMANCE. Concert Nights at the Old Walls presents "Himig ng Pilipinas" tomorrow, 6 p.m., at the Tanghalang Leandro V. Locsin, NCCA Building, 633 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. Admission is free. Call 527-2192 local 603.

WORKSHOP. The Japan Foundation Manila Office (JFMO) will sponsor a Japanese-Language Teachers' Seminar/Workshop on Aug. 3, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Nihongo Center Foundation, Philippines-Japan Friendship Center, 825 R. Papa St., Sampaloc, Manila. The lectures/presentations and all other activities will focus on the theme "How to Make Your Class More Communicative." The deadline for submission of registration forms is on July 30. Call 811-6155 to 58 or 811-6153.

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP. The Society of Portrait Photographers of the Philippines (SPPP) will hold a workshop on Portrait Photography on Aug. 10 and 11, and Figure Photography on Aug. 25. Workshops will be held at the Tanghalang Manuel Conde, Cultural Center of the Philippines at Roxas Boulevard, Manila. Call 801-3786, (0917) 399-4437 or (0917) 411-8339.

APPLICATION. The JFAC Grants Program for Fiscal Year April 2003-March 2004 is now open for application. Application is open to universities, cultural or research institutions, NGOs, government agencies, international organizations. Applications from individuals and profit-oriented organizations are not accepted. Priority will be given to projects, which involve Asian collaboration and multi-sectoral participation. The deadline for the submission of a three-page abstract on the project proposal is on July 31. Call 811-6155 to 58.

LAUNCH. The UP College of Mass Communication, CMC Student Council and GRADCOM Edboard launch Survivor 2002, the Interactive Yearbook. With graphics and layout made by EACOMM Corporation, Survivor 2002 features UP CMC's most recent graduates. Formal launching will be held in August.

ANNIVERSARY. Megacenter the Mall in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, is celebrating its fourth year anniversary on July 31. Pops Fernandez will have a mini concert in line with the provincial tour of her latest album "The Way I Feel Inside." Also on July 31, there will be a mall-wide sale that will run until Aug. 4. Poulex Supermarket will have in-house anniversary activities on Aug. 1-2. On Aug. 3, "Yes! Yan Ang Entertainment Show" will have the Megacenter Combo Trio promo third draw. On Aug. 4, Batibot children's show will visit the mall. On Aug. 10, "Yes!" mounts "Learn and Shop at Mega." On Aug. 17, "Yes!" will conduct a hairstyle and makeup demo courtesy of David's Salon. Call (044) 463-1618 or (044) 600-3788.

LECTURE. The fifth Dr. Jose Y. Fores Memorial Lecture and Workshop is set tomorrow at the Ledesma Hall of the Makati Medical Center (MMC). It is a yearly activity undertaken by the Philippine Cancer Society to honor its founding vice chair and president. This year's activity focuses on "How to Set up a Stoma Clinic." The Fores Memorial lecturer is Dr. Alberto B. Roxas, PCS board member and secretary-general of the fourth Asian Ostomy Association Conference, which will be held in Manila this October. He will talk on "Identifying Needs and Capabilities." Welcome remarks will be given by Dr. Raul G. Fores, MMC medical director. Intro will be made by Dr. George G. Eufemio, a surgical oncologist. Workshop speakers are Alice Salamanca, Enterostoma-Therapy nurse of the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, and Jake Palacio, an ostomate.

GREAT BUYS. Walk right in and get your favorite designer wear for less. Until Aug. 31, MIX Boutique at the Greenbelt Mall and MIX Jeans Bar in Robinsons Galleria will give up to 30-percent discount on designer brands like Vivienne Tam, Tracy Reese and Trina Turk. MIX Discount Studio in Greenbelt will also offer discounts on apparel and shoes.

SALE. Maldita celebrates its third year in July. From July 5-31, it holds the III Años anniversary sale. Buyers can get as much as 50 percent off on selected items at any of Maldita's 17 boutique stores all over Metro Manila. Purchases also entitle shoppers to free selected merchandise worth P199.

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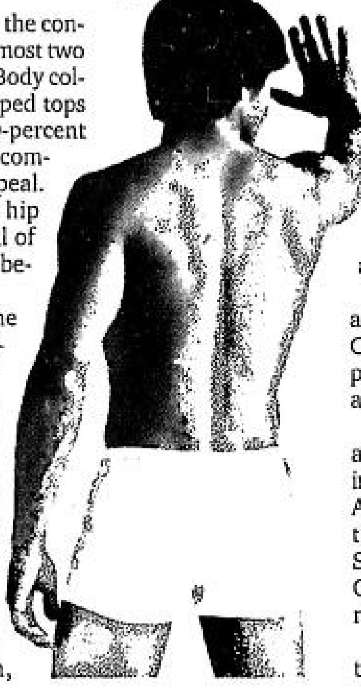
Bringing new shape to men's underwear



CALVIN Klein, the man who created the concept of men's designer underwear almost two decades ago, recently launched the Body collection, a line of ergonomically shaped tops and bottoms that are made of 100-percent cotton. They offer utmost support, comfort and, most importantly, sex appeal. The Body collection includes the hip brief, boxer brief and basic brief, all of which give great shape to the body because of their great cut.

Loungewear finds its way into the most relaxing of situations this season. Plaids and checks are the patterns to watch for, especially in pajama pants. The drawstring makes a statement this time in bicolor micro checks—marine blue and ocean, and artichoke and cream. The first bi-color comes garment-washed with a Calvin Klein logo in cotton jacquard clamp with white letters. The artichoke and cream is perfect sleepwear in 100-percent cotton, and in plain weave.

For the ladies, spring 2002 is all about a range of colors, from primrose to orchid colorway to key lime. There is the push-up bra and thong in micro-stretch in primrose. A printed body stretch underwire bra and bikini are in bluestone. The "Meryl Lúster" group composed also of underwire bras and bikinis are in key lime or tropicana.

Calvin Klein Underwear has indeed come a long way. In 1982, Calvin Klein introduced Calvin Klein Underwear, which turned the perception of men's underwear to a fashionable item.

Enjoy the Calvin Klein Underwear Spring and Fall 2002 collection by visiting the following outlets: Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Glorietta 2 Ayala Center, Power Plant Mall Rockwell Center, Robinsons Place Manila, Festival Supermall, 158 Designers' Blvd. Alabang Town Center, Rustan's Makati and Rustan's Tower. A new shop will open soon at The Podium.

Calvin Klein Underwear is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc.

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LIFESTYLE

A SIMPLE statement of style for Cris—Benetton's nylon viscose scarf and beaded sling bag accented with a sun hat, another find from Gift Gate's memorabilia collection

Cris Villonco grows up

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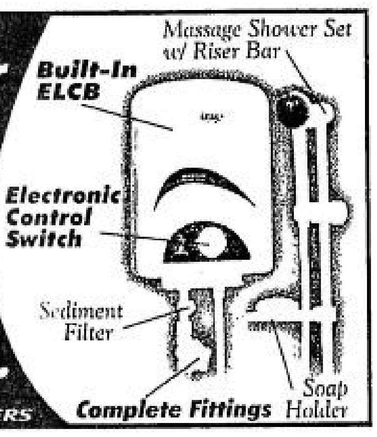

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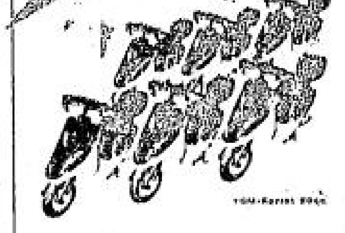

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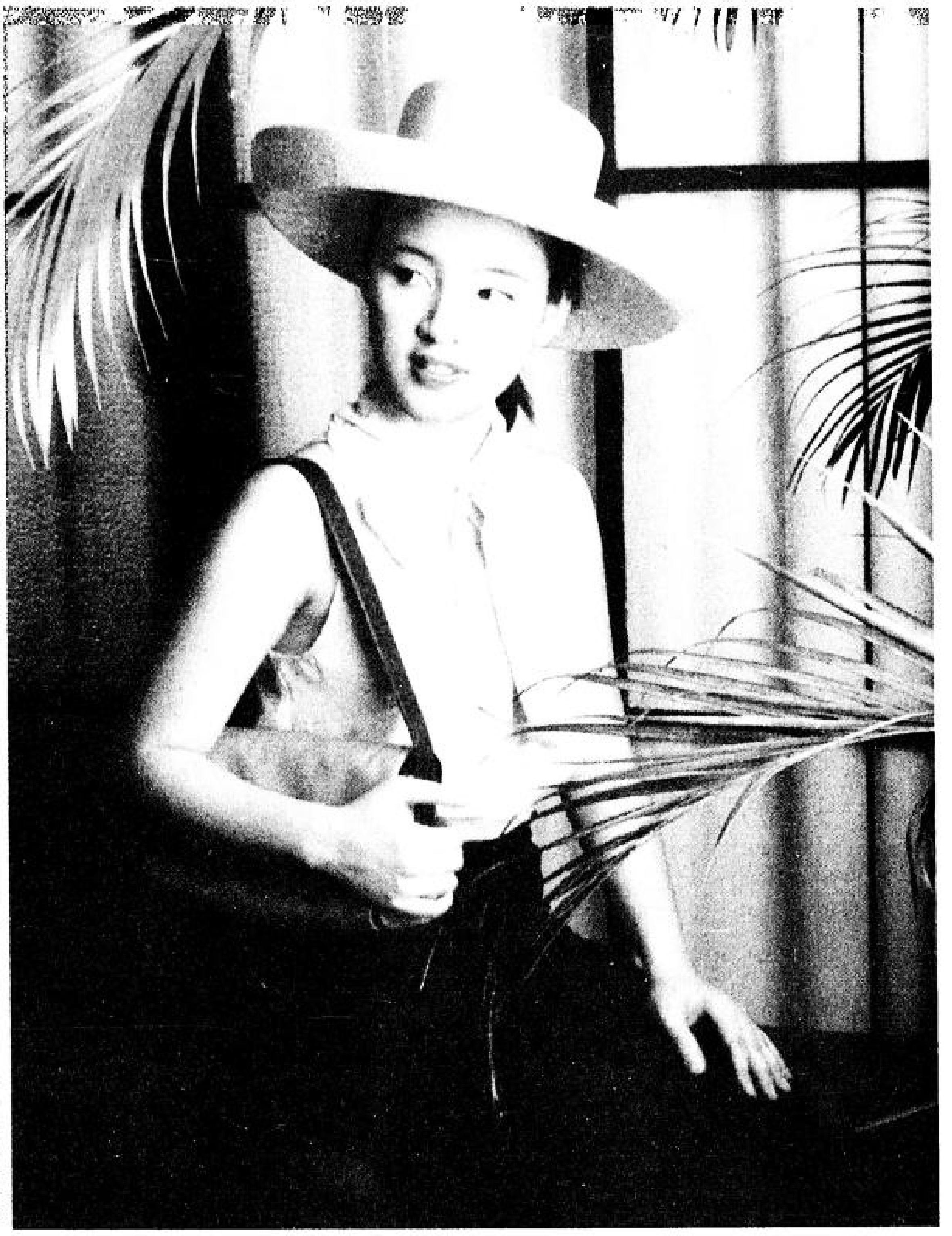
KEEP the rain away with Benetton's long wooden umbrellas in blue, pink, yellow and green; travel light with its soft polyester luggage in baby blue, pink and yellow. On Cris: Benetton long sleeved printed pullover, regular trousers and flat sandals



CRIS wears a '50s inspired fashion outfit with Benetton's haltered top, A-line tailored skirt and shoulder bag.

Cris Villonco grows up

The young singer is set to continue her studies in New York while coping with the separation of her parents

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Chito Vecina

"HOW old are you now?"

Cris Villonco grins widely upon hearing the question. Then, with her eyes sparkling mischievously, she says, "You have to tell me."

"Sixteen, 17?"

A smile still playing on her lips, she says, "At least you're close. I'm 18. Up to now, a lot of people say I'm 13."

Silly, those people who think that this young lady hasn't left adolescence yet. After all, she just graduated from International School Manila last June and is set to go to Sarah Lawrence College in New York this September.

"I'd be taking Liberal Arts," Cris says. "I'd probably be concentrating on communications, psychology and education. I've always wanted to teach, but I don't know how. My mom also gave me an idea—why not communications in terms of public service? And also psychology because it has something to do with education. I like teaching kids. And I also like learning about social behavior, about people and different things like that. That's what I was interested in when I was in IS."

Is that a 13-year-old talking? Definitely not.

Emotions

The upcoming move to New York is causing a flurry of emotions for Cris, who has never been on her own before. Studying abroad is a big step for her after constantly being in the safety of her mom's protection.

"My mom never lets me go off on my own. Actually, all my sisters—she allows them to do anything they want but with me, I don't know. I guess she's scared because she thinks that of the three sisters, I'm the one whose face is not *mataray*, so she thinks I can't stand up for myself."

It's no big surprise that her mom will be traveling with her to New York to help get her settled in her dorm. She intends to come back to Manila at least four times a year.

Just because Cris will be off to college doesn't mean her love for performing will have to be put on hold. "I plan to audition, I plan to do a lot of things, I really don't want to cut it short."

Not surprising for someone who seems to have been born with the passion for performing. "I've always loved to sing. When I was young I liked singing. I would sing here but I never really thought of singing for an audience until I auditioned for 'Les Miserables' when I was nine. I watched it in the US, I loved it and I studied the little girl's part. When I found they were holding auditions here, I went."

Before leaving Manila, Cris will make sure the people here have a lot of memories to remember her by. She'll be playing in the restaging of the musical "Alikabok" in August.

Cris and her fellow performers have been practicing for a month now for what she considers her most favorite project so far. She speaks highly of the people she works with. "I've never had this much fun before. They're really good people. They're so much fun to be with. And even after the play we want to hang out and chill."

SHE just can't get enough of Benetton bags!

READY TO PAINT THE TOWN RED. Cris gets all dolled up in Benetton's black tube top, Swatch Bijoux necklace and earrings and Benetton's burgundy shoulder bag with leather straps complete with glam accessories from Gift Gate's treasure trove.

In character

She knows her character well. "Bising starts off as very sweet, innocent and lovable. But towards the end of the play, you can see her courage, her strength, her independence and her love for country."

Cris enumerates the parallelisms of Bising's life to her own. "Bising's independence and love for country can be seen when she decides to fight for the country. She had to leave her family to do that. A woman joining the Katipunan is a big thing. In the same way, not everybody gets to go to the US to study. It's an opportunity for me."

She's also trying to steel herself as her parents separated recently. "It's still pretty raw. It's hard because it's such a big change, but we know it's the best for everybody."

CRIS/ p.D3

WHAT'S IN THE BAG? Cris tries Benetton's new red resin luggage for size. She wears a Benetton black woven tank top, Benetton plain hipster stretched cropped trousers and Swatch "Sky Like Red."

Cris Villonco grows up

From page D2

Although Cris seems to be handling the situation well, she can't help but express disdain for some people "taking sides."

"People think that they know what's going on in the family. But truth is, they don't. It's like, how can you do that? You don't ask us how we feel. Why do you talk about it?"

How does she deal with these people? "I try not to listen to anybody...It's so hard because I just want to rise above it all. I don't want to argue with the people who are saying these things, but at the same time, I can't help but feel bad. Because they don't know a thing that's happening in the house."

This mature young lady wants peace, evidently. If given a week, Cris says she'd like to go away with her mom and sisters—where there are no phones, where no one can call them.

"I also want to visit this home for abandoned girls in Taguig. I haven't gone there in a while. I just want to spend time with my friends. I'd love to be with friends and family," she adds.

With her life just starting, Cris has a lot of plans for the future. "I'd like to be successful in the fields I choose. And get married and have babies."

Typical for a girl who claims to be "a hopeless romantic."

Cris' ultimate dream is to be in a Broadway show—not necessarily to star in one, just singing would be enough.

And with her mom by her side, this dream might just turn into reality. "My mother is my role model—no one else. I see it all in her. I want to be like her when I grow up. She can do anything. I believe she can do anything."

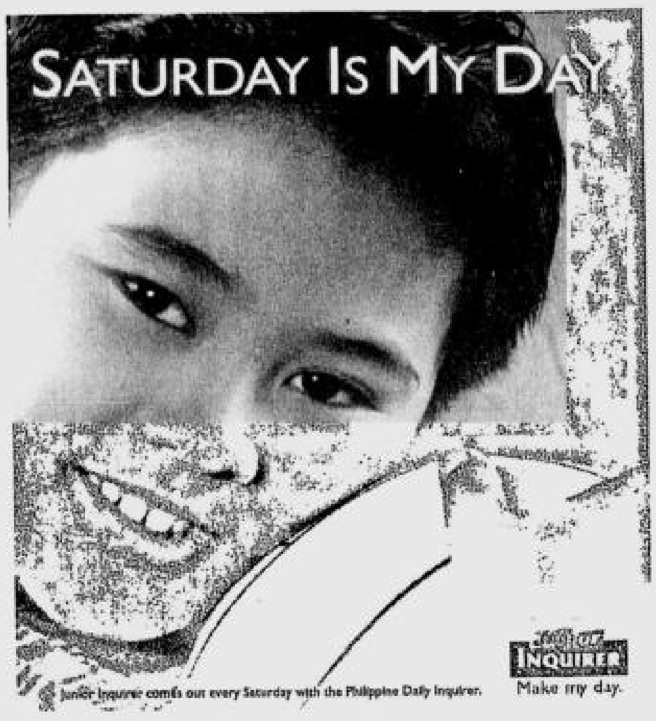
What makes Cris different? "I don't know. I like what Julia Roberts said in one of her interviews—'I'm an ordinary person with an extraordinary job.' It's true."

"Alikabok" will run from Aug. 7-24, Wednesday to Saturday, at the Music Museum.

IT'S YOUR TURN TO SHINE, GIRL! Cris is ready to face a new chapter in her life as college looms ahead for her. She wears a Benetton black woven tank top and Swatch "Sky Like Red" and throw pillow from Gift Gate's memorabilia collection.

FUN FASHION FROM BENETTON. Cris strikes a pose in her Benetton fitted top and soft luggage while taking a sip from a P.S. Practical Stuff blacklight glass. Ring from the Swatch Bijoux collection of jewelry and accessories.

BENETTON'S black tube top and corduroy pants accented by Benetton's nylon colored belt bags and Swatch "Creature of the Night" completes a weathered look for this great gal.



Junior Inquirer comes out every Saturday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

MARITHE + FRANÇOIS GIRBAUD PARIS + ENDOCUTURA ENDOCUTURA
SALE

SM Megamall, SM City North Edsa, SM Southmall, SM City Bacoor, SM City Manila, SM City Pampanga, SM Centerpoint, SM City Davao, SM Supercenter Sucat, SM Podium, SM City Fairview, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place-Manila, Robinsons Place-Imus, Robinsons Place-Novaliches, Robinsons Place-Iloilo, Robinsons Metro East, Glorietta 3, Alabang Town Center, Ayala Center Cebu, Festival Supermall, Powerplant Mall Rockwell, Alimall Cubao

MARITHE FRANÇOIS GIRBAUD

07.19.02-09.02.02

Per DTI-NCR Permit #2870 Series of 2002

Julia Roberts, 34
Madonna, 43
Sharon Stone, 44
Farrah Fawcett, 55
Raquel Welch, 61
Brad Pitt, 38
Pierce Brosnan, 49
Harrison Ford, 60
Robert Redford, 64
Clint Eastwood, 72

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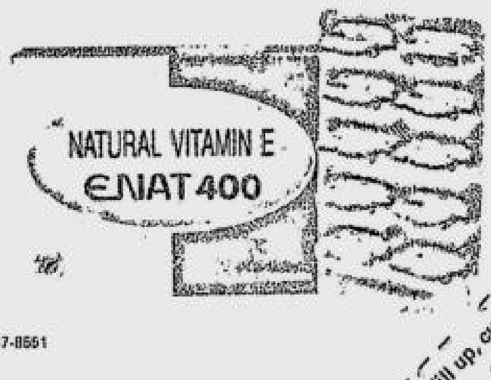

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DOH BFAD Permit # 0506 Series of 2002

Single with child

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

I STOOD as godfather to a friend's beautiful baby. There were a number of us, friends who held candles accented by lacy blue ribbons, making a promise to God that we would stand by this child through the roller-coaster called life and that we would perform the role of surrogate Mommies and Daddies if the need ever arose.

My friend looked even more beautiful in all her shades of harassment. It is never simple to stage events like these. Beside her stood the father of the toddler: he was fussing over the baby more than the Mom. The image was picture-perfect: you would expect some saccharine-themed music with vocals from Jamie Rivera or Roselle Nava celebrating the unequivocal joys of being alive.

Here was the picture of the perfect young family, the kind expected from every individual capable of procreation and deserving to be fruitful to multiply. Except for one minor detail: Mom and Dad are not married.

So what's the big deal? During the days when jeepney rides cost 10 centavos and Makati was still a marshland, the prim, proper and judgmental among us would have had major cardiac arrests at the mere thought of such Martha Stewart scenarios staged in chapels of sacramental solemnity. But, hey, not only are we plugged to the Net, paying P33 just to use the South Expressway and still trying to figure out what the heck is the PPA, we are also living in more interesting times. We have bent some rules, abolished some and reinterpreted others. Therefore, now are the times when virtue has got nothing to do with accessibility or availability of designer chastity belts.

Sure. There is that endless reverberation of panic from the Legions of the Eternally Correct, those who believe that a child born out of wedlock suffers the bane of decency. For how can there be any form of social order when the very nucleus of society—the family—is desecrated into a free-wheeling practice of random fertilization? In the universe of Pepe and Pilar, the baby exists in a coloring book world where there is no pollution, a lot of trees, a roomful of items from Toys R' Us and is cuddled by Mommy and Daddy, who wear identical wedding rings.

Touchy

Now is it such a crime to bring life into this world without the license of a sacrament? Hmmm. Touchy question. Is it reason enough to get married just because some fast-swimming spermatozoa managed to break through all the obstacles—natural and/or planted—to generate a system of organic activities on a single egg? There is no pat answer to this dilemma for this has been a question nagging generations—nay, centuries—of unplanned human reproduction. To even dare to provide a conclusion even in an age allegedly liberal in attitude can prove not only controversial but also fatal.

But it is all a question of choices. No life can possibly be created because of an "accident." And the bigger crime (as I desperately try to avoid the term "sin") is to take out on the child the irresponsibility of the Mama and the Papa. Marriage seems to be such a pat solution especially for those who still think that a swapping of "I do's" assures a fairy tale ending for the rest of a couple's life.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Cut and fit in your ref. A

THE NEW WHITE-WESTINGHOUSE

[illegible] you've known for durability now comes with monstrous capacity. That's an even larger storag
Add to that an equally wide range of features and you've got a big reason to mal

Elite Cool Design
Trendy and attractive exterior [illegible] today's household. The new White-Westinghouse [illegible] unique translucent door handle. No gaps where door and body meet [illegible] ergonomically designed [illegible] to guarantee efficient cooling.

Transparent Freezer Door
Now you can see what food stock you need to replenish without opening the freezer door.

Slide-out Chiller Tray
It's nothing like the conventional chiller compartment. It keeps food really fresh and is even more convenient.

Anti-rust Finis
Glass [illegible]

One-touch Qu
Convenient de
[illegible]
evaporat

Adjustable W
Strong and [illegible]
This ensure

From the Electrolux Group. The world's No.1 choice.

Well, it is not.

Perhaps it is an even greater mistake to get married just for the sake of legalizing the name of a kid, just to legitimize the existence of some bundle of joy in order to carry the family name of the Dad. Yeah, big deal. After all, parenting does not and cannot begin and end with the affixation of an *apelyido:* it has got everything to do with the sanity of the man and woman who are bound to raise the child into a decent God-fearing citizen who knows the value of love and accountability. More often than not, couples forced into the marital state because of circumstances turn the union into more of bondage rather than bonding. And guess who gets the brunt of having to live with sicko parents continuously gnawing and gnashing at each other's souls in their extended state of legal misery?

Well, yes. The question is choice—more often than not—of the woman. This whole "death do us part" sort of deal looks so-Lifestyle-Channel or In-Style-Magazine-pretty, but not everyone wants to go through that whole ritual for the sake of conforming with social expectations. The curse of the *disgrasiyada* has diminished in sensational value because thinking people have become practical at the cost of shattering norms so precious to purists. What is important is that there is a choice—not that which would determine whether the child should live because he should and he must—but whether the existence of the offspring is reason enough to involve a sacrament and a trip to City Hall.

Then another phenomenon has arisen wherein women reaching a certain age, usually in their early thirties, focus on the more apparent sound of the tick-tick-tick of their biological time clocks. Women, especially those engrossed with their careers and financially independent of family or any male of the species to provide roof and food, want to have a baby without having to go through the rigmarole of getting married.

Do I hear an audible gasp? Do I hear the prayers being murmured to save the souls of these allegedly intelligent ladies who want to indulge in *pecado mortal* while involving an innocent life to fulfill their empty existence?

To a lot of people, there is nothing scandalous or even earthshaking about this option. Another female friend of mine (mid-30s, power-suited, go-go-career, supra-intelligent and with a natural talent for ballbusting) said, "Look, I want the child...but I can't imagine having a husband." The time she casually sputtered these words, I broke into hideous laughter, imagining how this Escada-addicted buddy would scout around for someone to fertilize her. "The thought of having a baby...of raising a child...of being a mother bring tears to my eyes. The whole idea of being a wife, of having a husband...and having to deal with the idiosyncracies of man, makes me cry for a completely different reason." Somehow I understood exactly what she meant.

> A mommy and a daddy are equally necessary in bringing about a child's balanced perception of a world completely confused and confusing

Half the package

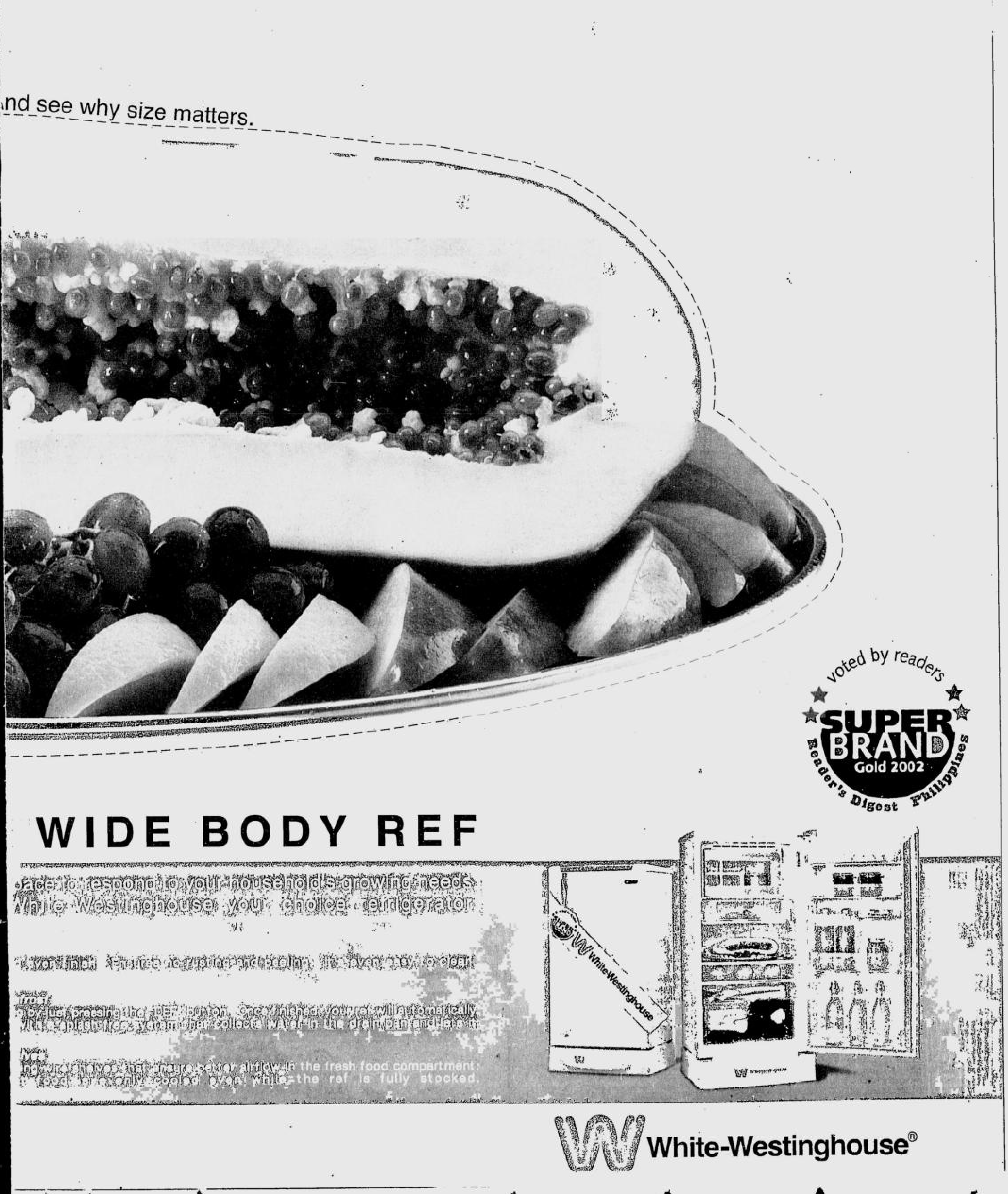
This friend wanted half the package. Although the tired/resigned married female folk will be the first to concede that having a husband is like raising another child, marriage entails other duties that do not preclude the joys of parenting. By focusing on a kid, the direction seems simpler although this may not necessarily be so. Being a mother does not include wrestling with the hassles of male infidelity, insensitivity and having to endure watching the ESPN when you really want to catch a movie on HBO.

"The child will give meaning to my life. The baby will give me direction...a center to this ritualistic kind of living I got myself into." Uh-oh, I said to myself. I completely understand the need to nurture another human being, most especially one that grew out of your own body. However, to even assume that the child will be an ultimate solution, the panacea to bouts of emptiness and menstrual cramps—that may be the creation of a completely different problem all together.

Victims of angst delivered by fast-paced, stress-filled everyday existence tend to romanticize and idealize parenting. All these Anne Geddes prints with chubby, pink, angelic baby faces create a compulsion to breastfeed, indulge in a Johnson's Baby Powder mode of thinking, develop an urge to go rush to the supermarket and buy Pampers in industrial volumes. And all these options tend to neutralize the cut-and-dried competitive world wherein women are thrown into and made to behave like they have more potent testicles than their male counterparts.

But men and women alike have the same fear. It is the fear of being alone. Images of dreadful solitude, surrounded by Sensurround media rooms, condos in Rockwell and the Fort, sparkling Expeditions and Jaguars, closets full of designer clothes and shoes, personal libraries with more tomes than Bibliarch, tend to generate the most evil nightmares. The much-needed accent is the child who will inherit all the fulfilled ambitions of a parent maimed and crippled by a parent's obsessive drive.

As long as you can raise a kid, give him a decent life, and most important, provide him with the needed time and guidance, then you are qualified to be a parent. As long as you are aware and willing to face both the benefits and consequences of creating and shaping the life of a human being, then you can be a parent. But, yes, also consider that a Mommy and a Daddy are equally necessary in bringing about a child's balanced perception of a world completely confused and confusing. Assuming the role of both also means doubling your accountability not to a judgmental society, but to the kid you chose to give life.


nd see why size matters.

voted by readers
SUPER BRAND
Gold 2002
Reader's Digest Philippines

WIDE BODY REF

ace to respond to your household's growing needs
White-Westinghouse your choice refrigerator

[illegible]

[illegible] by just pressing the DEF button. Once finished, your ref will automatically [illegible] you can [illegible] collected water in the drain pan [illegible]

[illegible] that ensure better airflow in the fresh food compartment; [illegible] evenly cooled even while the ref is fully stocked.

White-Westinghouse®

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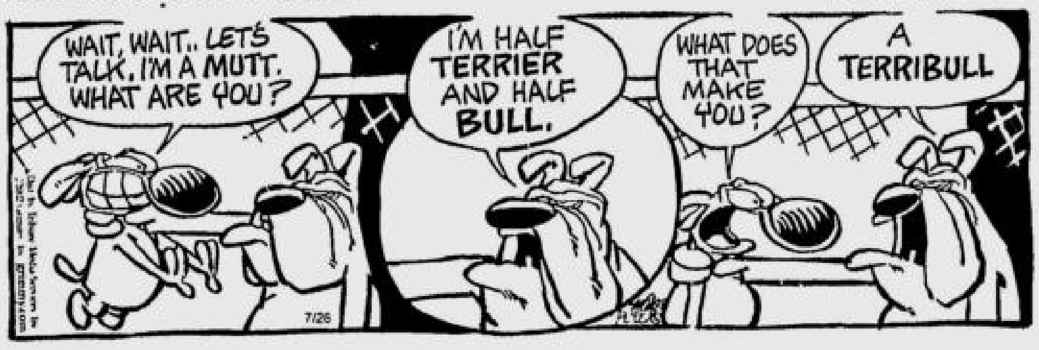
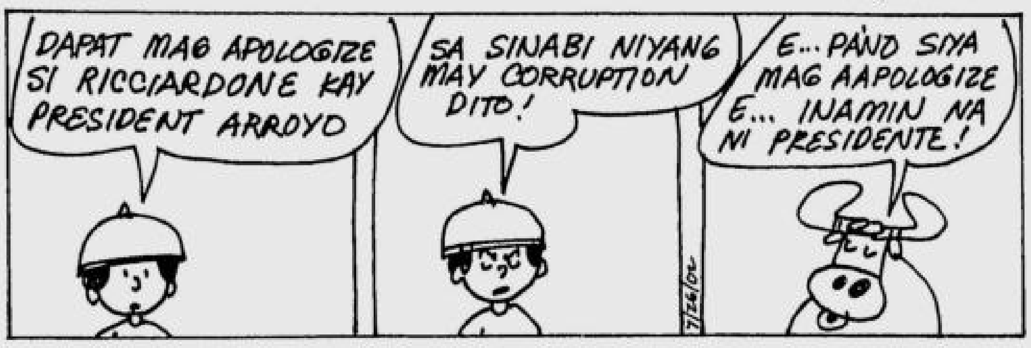
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


WAIT, WAIT.. LET'S TALK. I'M A MUTT. WHAT ARE YOU?
I'M HALF TERRIER AND HALF BULL.
WHAT DOES THAT MAKE YOU?
A TERRIBULL
7/26

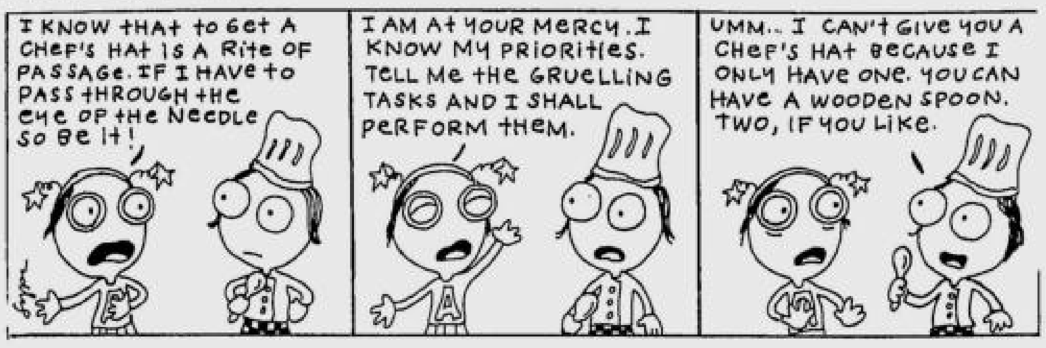
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DAPAT MAG APOLOGIZE SI RICCIARDONE KAY PRESIDENT ARROYO
SA SINABI NIYANG MAY CORRUPTION DITO!
E... PANO SIYA MAG AAPOLOGIZE E... INAMIN NA NI PRESIDENTE!
7/26/02

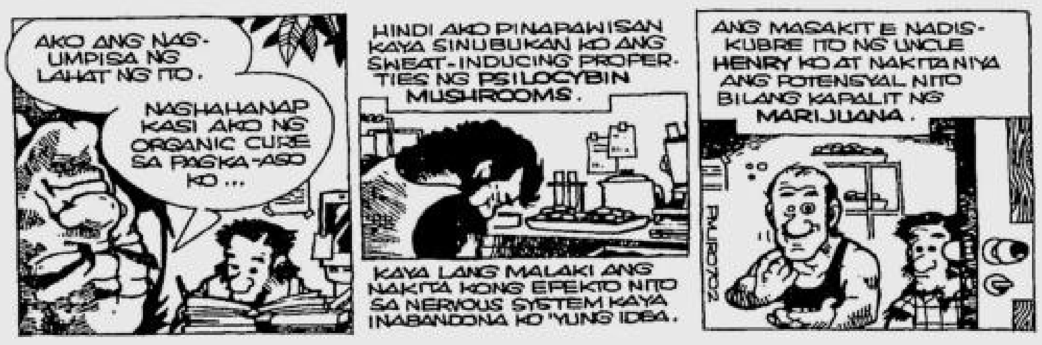
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I KNOW THAT TO GET A CHEF'S HAT IS A RITE OF PASSAGE. IF I HAVE TO PASS THROUGH THE EYE OF THE NEEDLE SO BE IT!
I AM AT YOUR MERCY. I KNOW MY PRIORITIES. TELL ME THE GRUELLING TASKS AND I SHALL PERFORM THEM.
UMM.. I CAN'T GIVE YOU A CHEF'S HAT BECAUSE I ONLY HAVE ONE. YOU CAN HAVE A WOODEN SPOON. TWO, IF YOU LIKE.

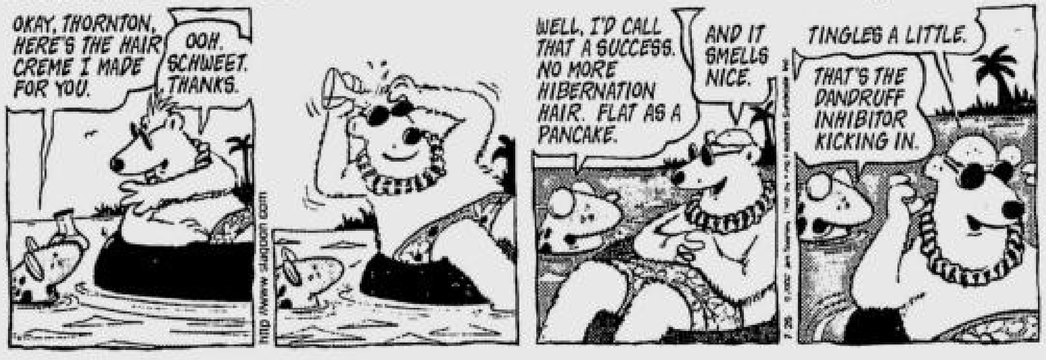
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


AKO ANG NAG-UMPISA NG LAHAT NG ITO.
NAGHAHANAP KASI AKO NG ORGANIC CURE SA PAGKA-ASO KO ...
HINDI AKO PINARAWISAN KAYA SINUBUKAN KO ANG SWEAT-INDUCING PROPERTIES NG PSILOCYBIN MUSHROOMS.
KAYA LANG MALAKI ANG NAKITA KONG EPEKTO NITO SA NERVOUS SYSTEM KAYA INABANDONA KO 'YUNG IDEA.
ANG MASAKIT E NADISKUBRE ITO NG UNCLE HENRY KO AT NAKITA NIYA ANG POTENSYAL NITO BILANG KAPALIT NG MARIJUANA.
PMJR0702

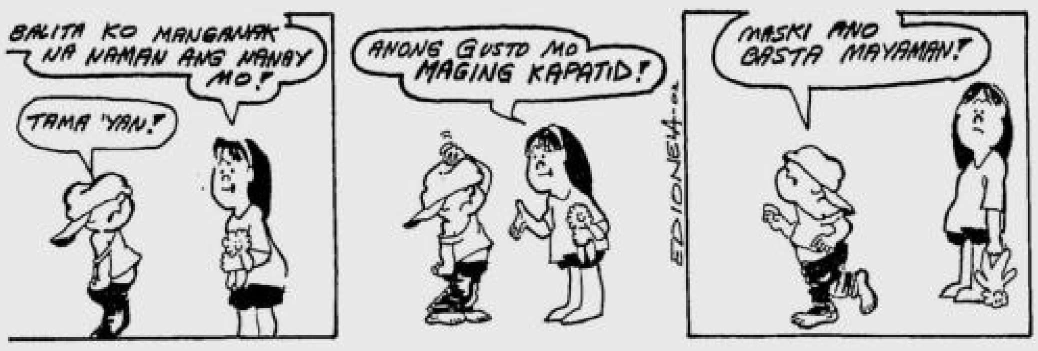
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


OKAY, THORNTON, HERE'S THE HAIR CREME I MADE FOR YOU.
OOH. SCHWEET. THANKS.
http://www.slagoon.com
WELL, I'D CALL THAT A SUCCESS. NO MORE HIBERNATION HAIR. FLAT AS A PANCAKE.
AND IT SMELLS NICE.
TINGLES A LITTLE.
THAT'S THE DANDRUFF INHIBITOR KICKING IN.

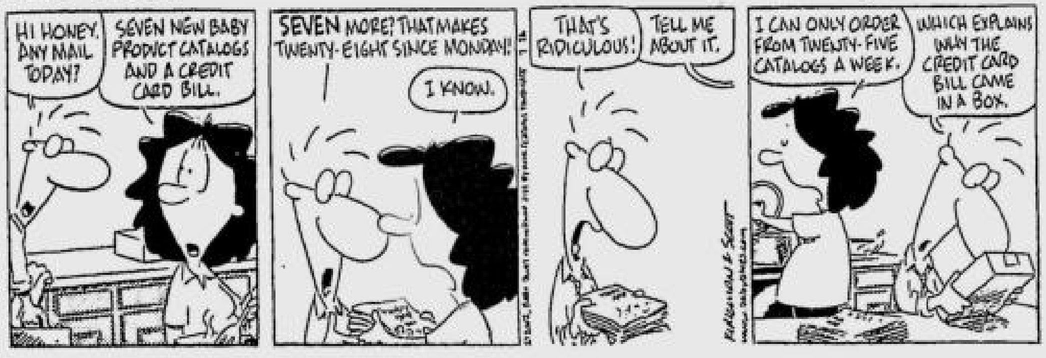
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


BALITA KO MANGANAK NA NAMAN ANG NANAY MO!
TAMA 'YAN!
ANONG GUSTO MO MAGING KAPATID!
EDIONELA
MASKI ANO BASTA MAYAMAN!

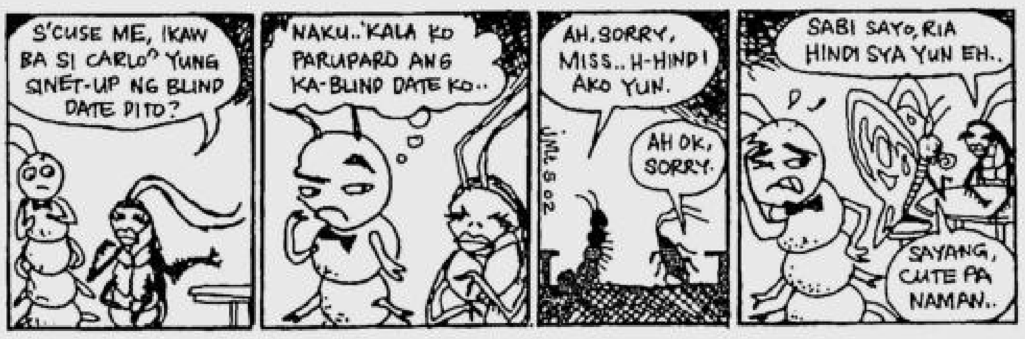
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HI HONEY. ANY MAIL TODAY?
SEVEN NEW BABY PRODUCT CATALOGS AND A CREDIT CARD BILL.
SEVEN MORE? THAT MAKES TWENTY-EIGHT SINCE MONDAY!
I KNOW.
THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
TELL ME ABOUT IT.
I CAN ONLY ORDER FROM TWENTY-FIVE CATALOGS A WEEK.
WHICH EXPLAINS WHY THE CREDIT CARD BILL CAME IN A BOX.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


S'CUSE ME, IKAW BA SI CARLO? YUNG SINET-UP NG BLIND DATE DITO?
NAKU..'KALA KO PARUPARO ANG KA-BLIND DATE KO..
AH, SORRY, MISS.. H-HINDI AKO YUN.
AH OK, SORRY.
JML 8 02
SABI SAYO, RIA HINDI SYA YUN EH..
SAYANG, CUTE PA NAMAN..

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mick Jagger, Blake Edwards, Sandra Bullock, Kevin Spacey

Happy Birthday: Sudden changes can be expected this year, especially at an emotional level. Although you may see this a tumultuous year, it really will be just the beginning of great things for you. Set your sights high and remember your dreams. Your numbers are 9, 31, 35, 44, 46, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will receive recognition today. Your desire to get ahead professionally will lead you to mix business with pleasure.Approach those in high positions to get help.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will find a unique way to put cash in your pocket. You will be insightful when it comes to recognizing future trends, but keep in mind that you may be a little ahead of your time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will be able to help a friend going through difficult times. You can expect to get that long-awaited letter or phone call. Someone you like has been thinking about you as well.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You could make money if you're involved in personal enhancement products. Your home is likely to be hectic today. You may find that your blood pressure is out of control.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will change your mind and your outlook quickly today. Your desire to be free from someone who is trying to boss you will result in a loss of friendship.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a greater interest in cultural trends today. You will be drawn to courses offering different philosophies and humanitarian interests. Self-development will be the key to your own wisdom.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take the unconventional route and plan some unusual activities. Your creative imagination will enhance your reputation and bring you a host of different friends or lovers. Pamper yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will feel a greater need to interact with your loved ones today. Cleaning and fixing up your place in preparation will lift your spirits and turn out surprisingly well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Talk with your relatives, peers or your partner about the way you feel and what your intentions are. Your ability to get your point across eloquently will win you popularity. Pleasure trips will be most enjoyable.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will find it difficult to stay in one place for any length of time. You may experience mishaps while traveling and should take all precautions available to you.

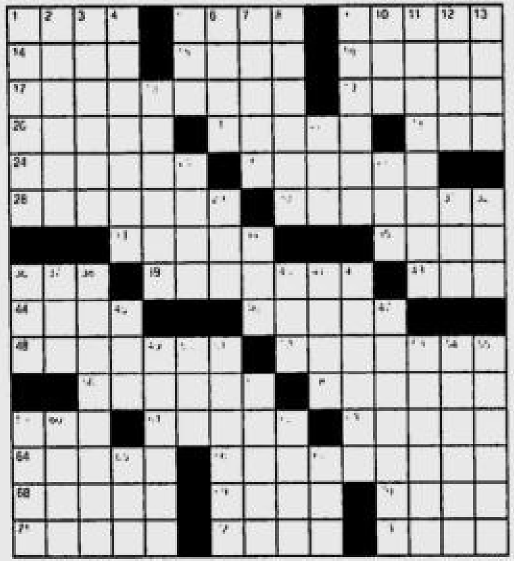
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Deception is likely to lead to confusion, anger and problems with friends or relatives. Think twice before you say something that could be slightly exaggerated.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will do your best to meet your deadlines and not back away from a challenge. You'll have a unique way of dealing with others that will result in getting the help you require.

Birthday Baby: You are the grand master of change. You can entertain and delight. You are bright, bold and beautiful, and loyal to your friends and family.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Robert Zimmerman
San Diego, CA

7/26/02

ACROSS
1 Fellow
5 Frolic
9 Model wood
14 Fling
15 Kuwaiti leader
16 Expect
17 Hidden, CA
19 Artist's undercoat
20 Cut stubble
21 Pianist Art
23 Brio
24 Mechanic's task
26 Bun seed
28 Edith Piaf's bird?
30 Supervises
33 Alternative energy
35 Kevin Kline movie
36 Physicians' org.
39 Walnut Trees, AZ
43 Made a lap
44 "La Boheme" role
46 Customs
48 Inactive medication
52 Considerate and discreet
56 Win back
58 Geological layers
59 Geisha's sash
61 Despiser
63 Tobacco kilns
64 Conversation starter
66 The Crosses, NM
68 Donnybrook
69 Thomas __ Edison
70 Paddock papa
71 Tracker's trail
72 Shed tears
73 Be mouthy

DOWN
1 Treasure holders
2 Quiet!
3 Deep secrets
4 Wading birds
5 Highest alert
6 Skip over
7 King with a golden touch
8 For the time being, briefly
9 Underworld collector
10 Wonder
11 The Meadows, NV
12 Yes indeed, Jose
13 Minute particle
18 Nerve cell
22 NATO member
25 Riding game
27 Loony
29 Rascal
31 One Gabor
32 Tennis group
34 Lamb's father
36 Current unit, for short
37 Wire measure
38 Yellow, TX
40 Used-car site
41 Times
42 Division
45 Curling surface
47 Composer Johann
49 Repeater
50 Feathered neckwear
51 Western bad guy
53 Connective tissue
54 Verbalizes
55 Sibling girls
57 U.S. family of artists
59 Resistance units
60 Brief horn sound
62 Invitation letters
65 Lion's name
67 Jazz devotee

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

R	A	F	E	R	■	S	A	G	S	■	A	I	D	A
E	L	I	D	E	■	A	M	E	N	■	P	L	O	D
S	P	L	I	T	■	L	A	N	A	■	E	L	S	A
T	H	E	T	I	M	E	T	O	F	I	X	■	■	■
S	A	T	O	R	I	■	E	M	U	S	■	U	S	A
■	■	■	R	E	S	C	U	E	■	E	N	N	U	I
F	C	C	■	■	F	O	R	■	T	R	U	I	S	M
A	R	O	O	F	I	S	■	W	H	E	N	T	H	E
C	A	N	N	O	T	■	H	E	R	■	■	S	I	D
T	W	E	E	N	■	S	I	T	U	P	S	■	■	■
S	L	Y	■	D	U	M	P	■	S	H	A	N	I	A
■	■	■	S	U	N	I	S	S	H	I	N	I	N	G
M	A	G	I	■	A	L	T	O	■	A	T	S	E	A
O	V	A	L	■	P	E	E	L	■	L	E	A	R	N
W	E	L	L	■	T	Y	R	O	■	S	E	N	T	A

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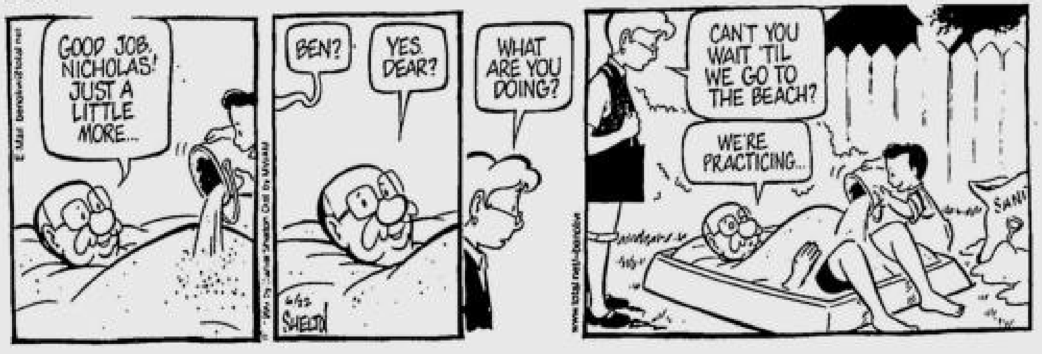
7/25/02

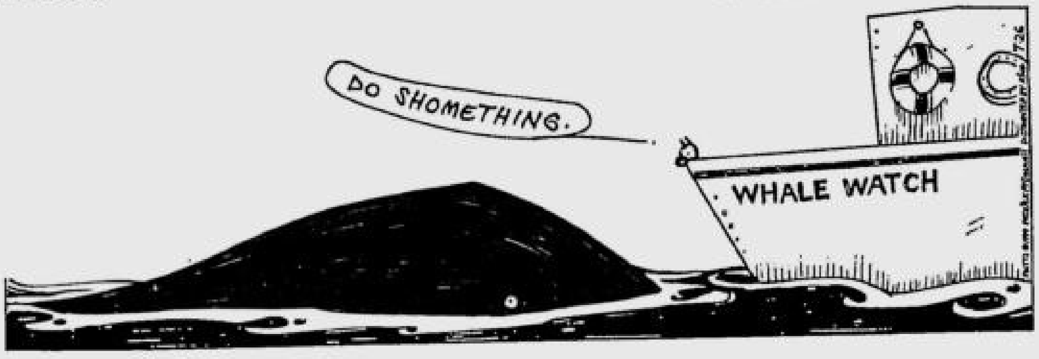
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


GOOD JOB, NICHOLAS! JUST A LITTLE MORE...
BEN?
YES, DEAR?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SHELTON
CAN'T YOU WAIT 'TIL WE GO TO THE BEACH?
WE'RE PRACTICING...
SAND

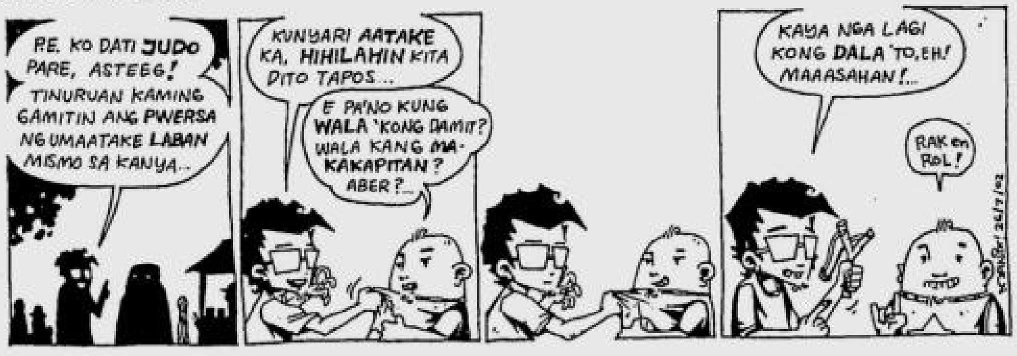
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


DO SHOMETHING.
WHALE WATCH
7/26

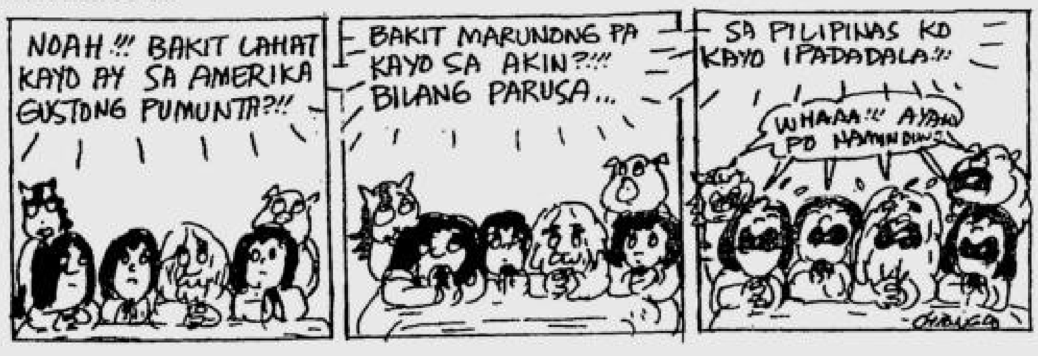
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


P.E. KO DATI JUDO PARE, ASTEEG!
TINURUAN KAMING GAMITIN ANG PWERSA NG UMAATAKE LABAN MISMO SA KANYA...
KUNYARI AATAKE KA, HIHILAHIN KITA DITO TAPOS...
E PA'NO KUNG WALA 'KONG DAMIT? WALA KANG MAKAKAPITAN? ABER?..
KAYA NGA LAGI KONG DALA 'TO, EH! MAAASAHAN!...
RAK en ROL!
26/7/02

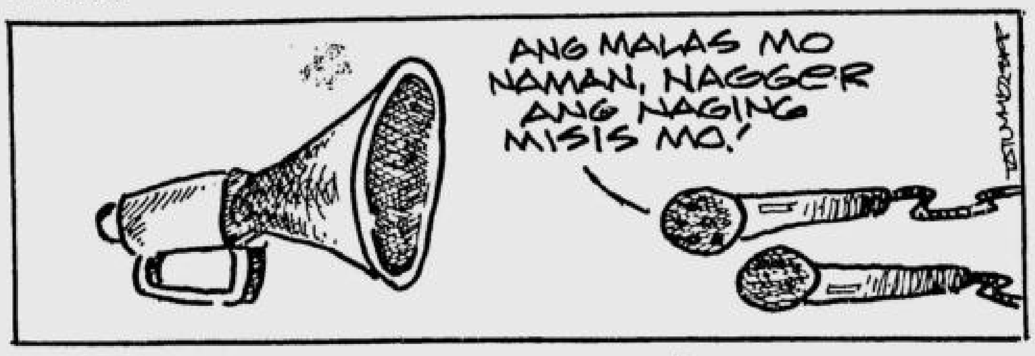
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NOAH !!! BAKIT LAHAT KAYO AY SA AMERIKA GUSTONG PUMUNTA?!!
BAKIT MARUNONG PA KAYO SA AKIN?!!! BILANG PARUSA...
SA PILIPINAS KO KAYO IPADADALA!!
WHAAA!!! AYAW PO NAMIN DUN!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ANG MALAS MO NAMAN, NAGGER ANG NAGING MISIS MO!
TATUM/PAPU

Airline offers hotel discount package

CEBU Pacific is on the third run of its Hotels Plus campaign that gives the best hotel rates to its passengers.

With Hotels Plus, Cebu Pacific flyers can enjoy comfort and classy amenities at special discounted rates in any of the airline's partner hotels. The special offer is valid within seven days of travel and can be availed of by simply presenting a flown ticket and boarding pass upon check-in. Prior booking is highly recommended.

Participating hotels include Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel, Cebu Midtown Hotel, Marlim Mansions Hotel and Oasis Hotel in Clark, Pampanga; Davao's Apo View Hotel, Barcelo Sarabia Manor Hotel in Iloilo, Century Citadel Inn and Primetown Century Tower in Makati, Manila Midtown Hotel, Manila Galleria Suites in Ortigas, Century Imperial Palace Suites in Quezon City, Roxas President's Inn Roxas City, Grand Astoria Hotel in Zamboanga, Plaza Maria Luisa Suites Inn Dumaguete, and Almont Inland Resort in Butuan.

This program runs until April 30, 2003. Call 637-9168 or 636-4938.

Meanwhile, Cebu Pacific, the country's second largest carrier, now flies twice-daily to Hong Kong. It also has thrice-weekly Manila-Laoag-Hong Kong charter flights.

Last February, the airline opened twice-weekly charter services between Cebu and Seoul. In March, it launched four weekly services between Manila and Seoul.

Learn the keys to success

A MAJOR deterrent to living a full, highly effective, productive and successful life is procrastination. It keeps us from achieving our goals and realizing our fondest dreams. Studies show that at least 85 percent of people procrastinate. Twenty percent fall under the category of chronic procrastinators, and chances are, they will have a hard time being successful in life.

Knowing why people fail in life is a key factor to success. By identifying the negative, self-defeating and non-productive things people do, you can learn to avoid and even be equipped with the proper techniques and solutions to conquer them.

The 12 Failure Anchors that keep you from achieving your dreams are discussed fully by Dero Pedero in the seminar "Make Your Impossible Dreams Come True!" This is the first and only seminar of its kind in the Philippines that employs computer and video technology to present life-enhancing secrets, principles and techniques vital in helping you realize your dreams. E-mail DeroSeminar@yahoo.com or contact (0920) 405-3233.

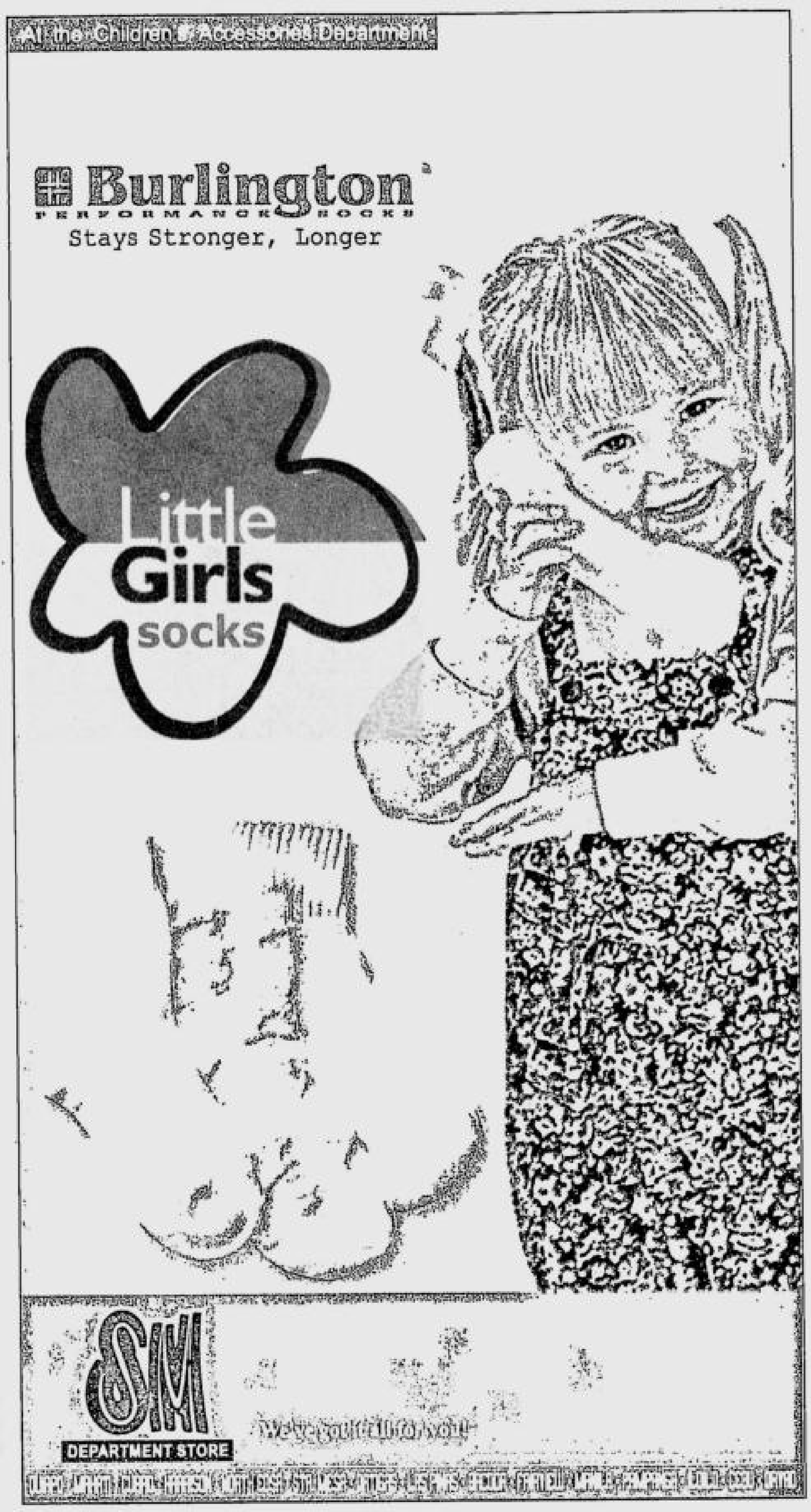
Garden to revive the weary spirit

THE groundbreaking ceremony of Soul Garden will be held tomorrow with Rep. Eduardo Veloso of Leyte and chair of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives as guest.

Joining him is Councilor Janet Malay of Quezon City's fourth district and chair of the Committee on Parks, Environment and Ecology.

Soulmates Inc. said Soul Garden was an innovative concept that offered a place where the general public could go for spiritual and aesthetic uplift through spaces for meditation, rituals, arts and cultural performances; health activities, seminars, dialogues, among others. The place could help people rejuvenate their spirits after office or school.

A joint project of Soulmates Inc. and the Quezon City Parks and Development Foundation Inc., Soul Garden is situated at the former Medicinal Garden at the Quezon City Memorial Circle.



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Jollibee Journal

Jollibee spreads happiness in Mindanao!

A big Champ for a big feat. Jollibee poses with the management team of the newly opened Jollibee Valencia store in Bukidnon.

There's just no stopping the Jollibee family from growing. Jollibee opened two new stores in Mindanao: Jollibee-Valencia in Bukidnon and Jollibee- Tacurong in Sultan Kudarat, bringing the *Langhap-sarap* goodness to more and more Filipinos down south. The two new stores now bring a total of 30 Jollibee stores in Mindanao.

Set against the backdrop of pineapple fields, the Jollibee Valencia store is Bukidnon's first. The store has a seating capacity of 150 and can easily accommodate visitors from as far as Cagayan de Oro and Davao. Likewise, Jollibee-Tacurong is Sultan Kudarat's first *Bee Happy* store, instantly becoming the city's latest attraction. Its 40-foot pylon roof can be seen for miles from any part of town.

Bee Happy in Sultan Kudarat. Jollibee regional officers and branch managers pose at the new Jollibee store in Tacurong.

Hundreds of locals and city officials joined in the fun and festivities during the grand opening of both stores. Now, Luzon, Visayas and Minadao are one with *Bee Happy* !

Kaya Mong Sumali at Manalo, Kid!

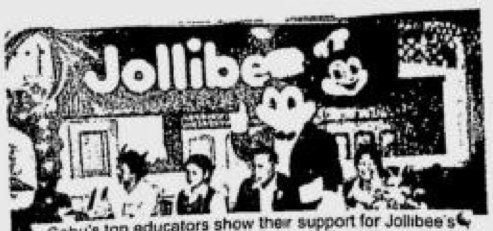
The search is on for this year's *Kapayapaan, Kaya Mong Ilarawan, Kid!*, a nationwide painting contest. Open to kids ages 7 to 12 years old, the contest theme: "*Kapayapaan, Kaya Kong Simulan.*" centers on how kids can promote peace in their own special way.

12-year old Aika Sylene Cruz is one of this year's early contestants. The young artist recently submitted her work at the Jollibee store in Molino, Cavite. Aika has been creating colorful works of art ever since she can remember. Upon learning about Jollibee's painting contest, she immediately set to work on her very moving "art peace".

Jollibee accepts budding artist Aika Sylene Cruz's entry for the Kapayapaan, Kaya Mong Ilarawan, Kid! painting contest.

So if you're a passionate painter like Aika, join the *Kapayapaan, Kaya Mong Ilarawan, Kid!* painting contest. Paint your way to a better and peaceful tomorrow.

Jollibee Art Mania Hits Cebu


Cebu's top educators show their support for Jollibee's *Kapayapaan, Kaya Mong Ilarawan, Kid!* painting contest.

Cebu's regional launch of the *Kapayapaan, Kaya Mong Ilarawan, Kid!* painting contest kicked off at the Jollibee-Ayala Center Cebu branch.

The event was attended by top officials of Cebu's different schools who all pledged their support for Jollibee's ongoing campaign that helps promote values formation through artistic means.

Guest speaker was Dr.Eladio Diokno, Cebu's Regional DepEd Director, who thanked Jollibee for continuing to provide educational and artistic venues for the youth of Cebu.

Regional winners of the *Kapayapaan, Kaya Mong Ilarawan, Kid!* painting contest will be flown in by Cebu Pacific for the National Finals, to be held in Manila on October 11, 2002. Good luck *sa imo mga bai. Bee Happy!*

Jollibee Works for Mother Earth

Jollibee-Silang, Cavite recently teamed-up with the Philippine Jaycees of Silang for twin ecological projects for the town of Sabutan.

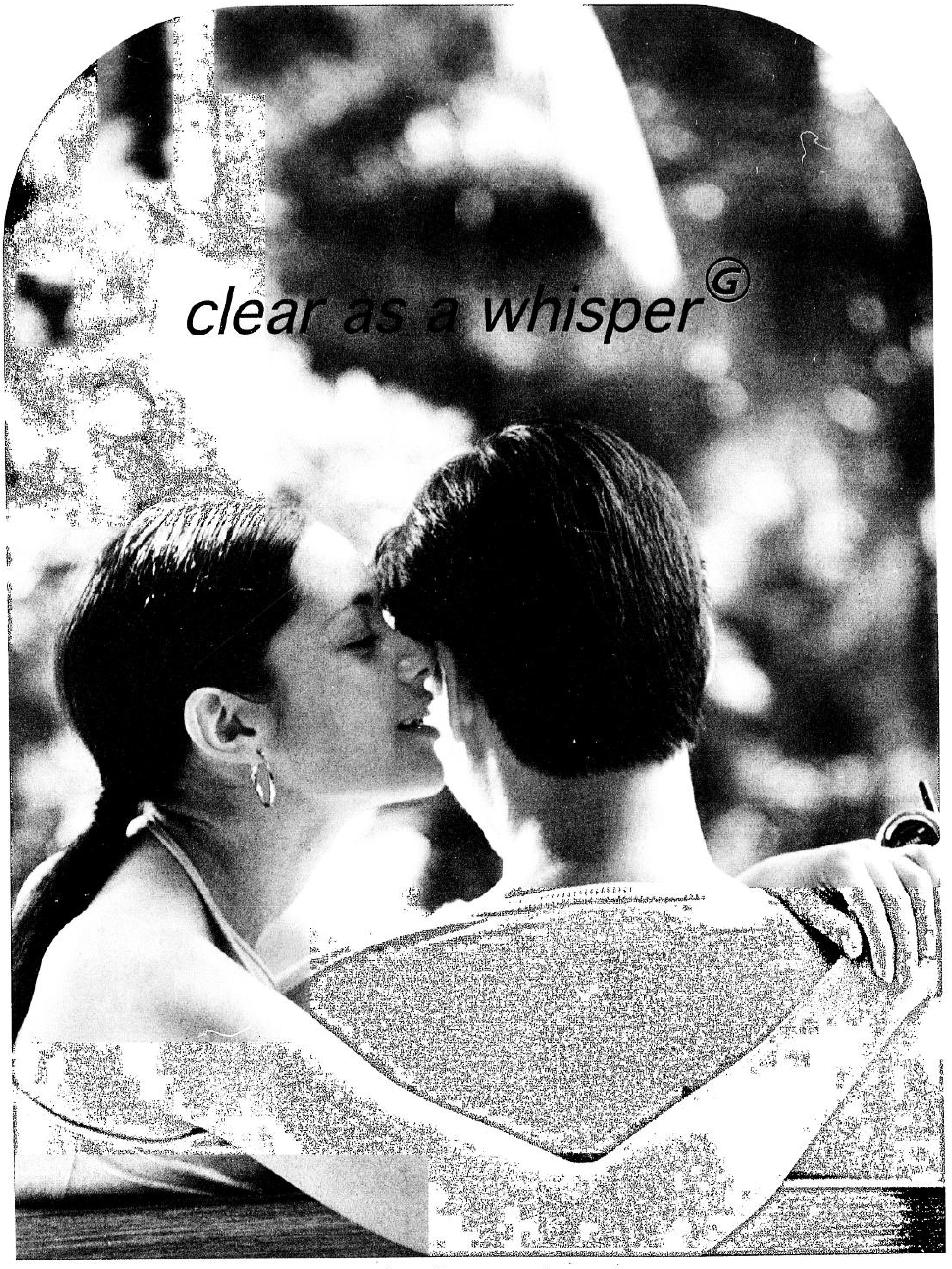
The Sabutan Elementary School was the site of the tree-planting activities of the Superkids Club of Jollibee-Silang, as well as the turn-over ceremonies of the barangay's new artesian well or *tubig-poso* donated by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and officiated by the Jaycees.

The Superkids Club of Jollibee-Silang had a day of sun, soil, and seeds during their tree planting at the Sabutan Elementary School in Cavite.

Both school and barangay officials thanked the kids, the Jollibee staff, and the Jaycees for their generosity and support. With the *poso*, the newly planted trees will be able to grow and mature along with the kids who helped plant them. What a wonderful *bee happy* thought!

For feedback, comments, or suggestions, please write to:
Jollibee Journal
c/o The Marketing Division,
Jollibee Plaza Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center Pasig City, Philippines
journal@jollibee.com.ph

bee happy
Langhap-Sarap sa Jollibee



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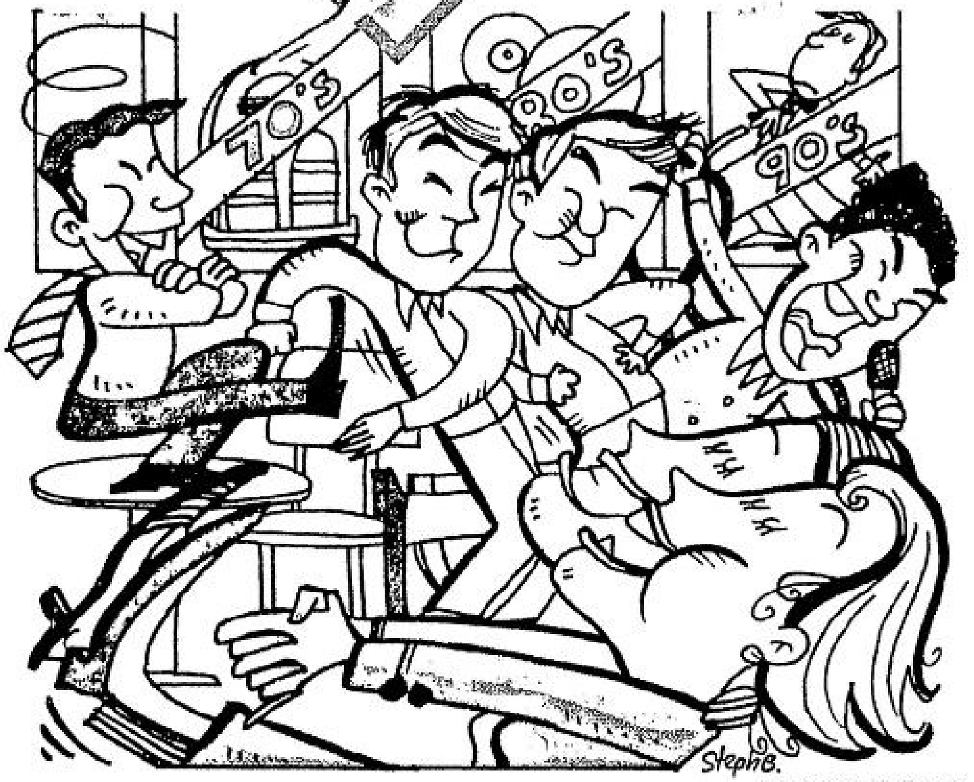

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Women, and a few men, are jiggling along from the dance floor to the tabletop—without partners

Real People. True Stories.

"Teenager? You must mean my daughters! With Imedeen, my skin's smooth even without make-up."

Joanna Valencia-de Jesus,
33, AVP for Finance, interior design student,
mother of two

Joanna de Jesus has the fresh face of a college girl -- plus a successful career and not one but two teenaged daughters! Yet you'd never guess it from her skin: "People can't believe I'm 33!" Thanks to Imedeen, Joanna's not only maintained her young skin -- she's even *improved* it: "I wasn't born with perfect skin. I had sunspots and tiny veins, but they're almost gone; now I don't even need foundation!" Only Imedeen nourishes skin from deep within -- for a smooth, firm, definitly youthful complexion *without* time consuming rituals. So when her daughters' friends or her own classmates are amazed at her age, Joanna just smiles and says "Believe it -- and believe Imedeen." Imedeen. The Skin Care Tablet.

Ultrasound images of the skin structure: first photo shows photodamaged dermis; second photo shows denser structure which implies better support and ability to hold moisture.

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Is the reign of the 'D.I.' over?

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

THIS is not to hurt the feelings of many D.I.s (dance instructors to those not in the know; there are?) and many more women, but one night-out last week, I left Dish asking myself that.

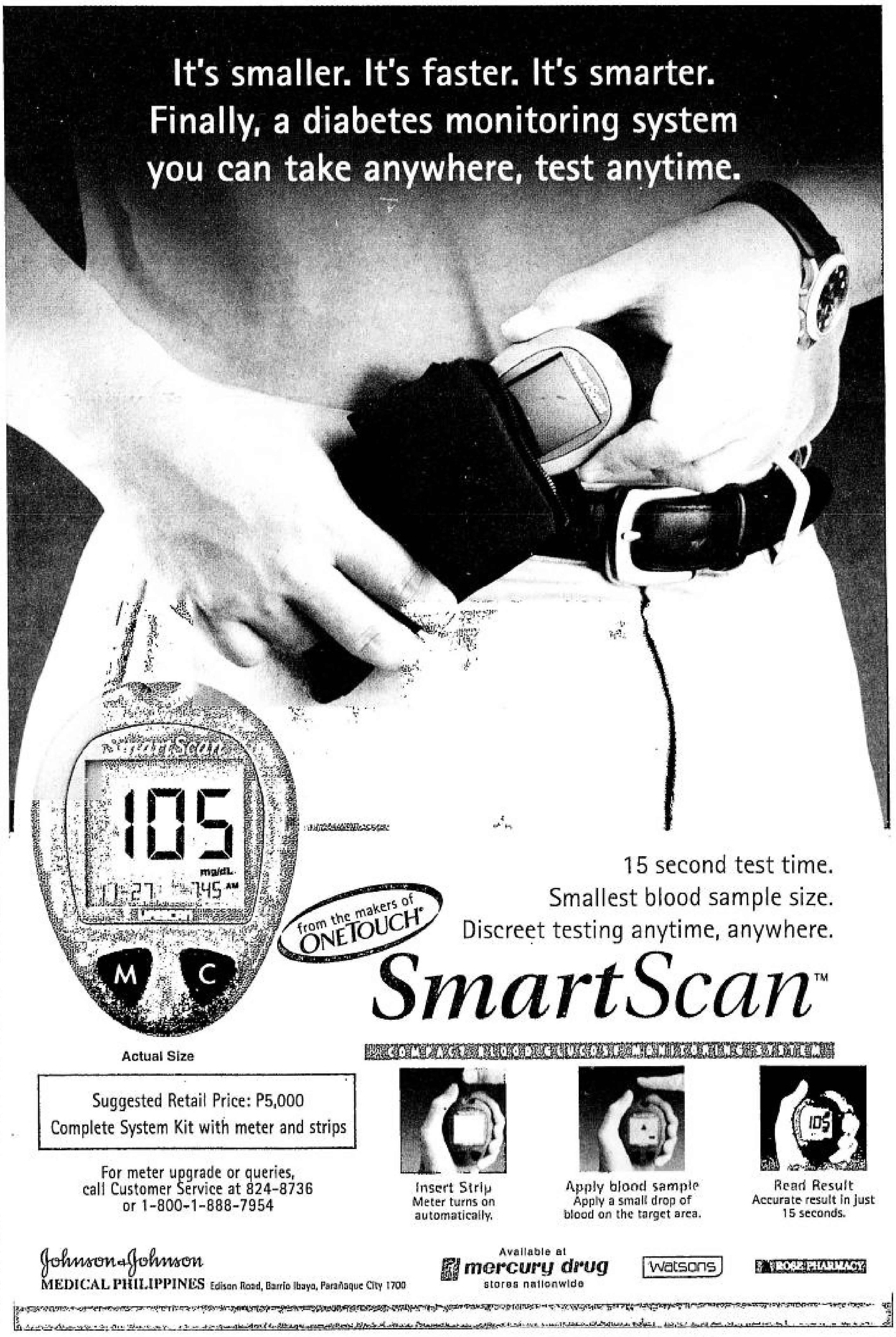
If more and more women are taking to the dance floor, dancing on stage, at their seats—or on tabletops—by themselves, what will happen to the D.I. phenomenon the Philippines got known for? Or ballroom dancing? (One more reason to do away with men?)

At Dish's first anniversary gig Thursday night, right before the storm and long before the Sona, I enjoyed the live bands—a super buffet of acts—and watching people, including INQUIRER's **Leah S.** and **Louie C.** at our table. The crowd was a good and wide mix—from office people to the A-list, from the young to the looking-old.

South Border, the first act, worked up the crowd quite good. When the League of Cayuca (LOC) went on board, the full house was loosening up, and I might add, the women's eyeballs getting unhinged from their sockets the more **Jay Cayuca** swung those hips as he plucked his violin. From head to toe, this guy could move—almost balletically and definitely sensually—with the right equipment: not only violin, but also that buff body and nape-long hair. Body Calendar material, I thought, and regretted that I didn't join Manila Times' **Fort Yerro** at LOC's previous gigs to watch our tennis buddy **Rey Fernandez**, who's the band's keyboardist.

However, leave it to the next band, Side A, to get the girls (including Leah) and a few guys on their feet. **Joey G.** dipped into the crowd and got mostly everyone dancing. By the time Rage, which is still so good by the way, picked up the action, Dish was already seeing an energy overload. The girls, a few of them in corporate blazers, were dancing on the floor, by their seats, and later on,

IS/ p.E2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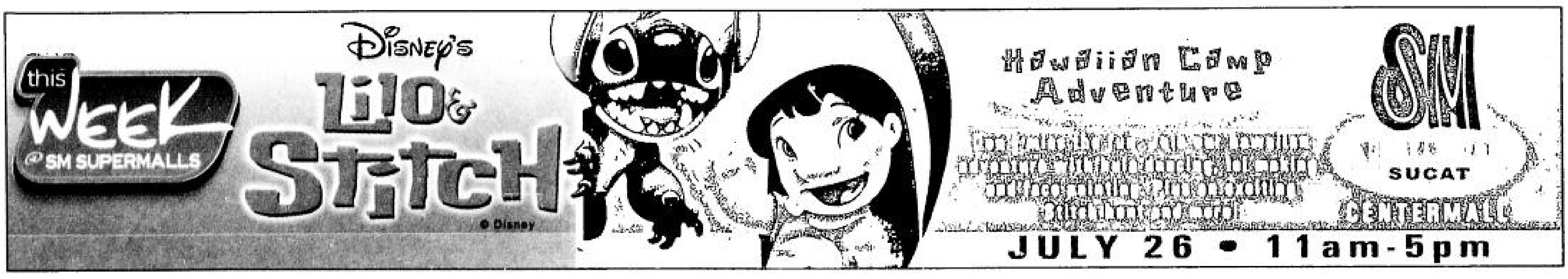
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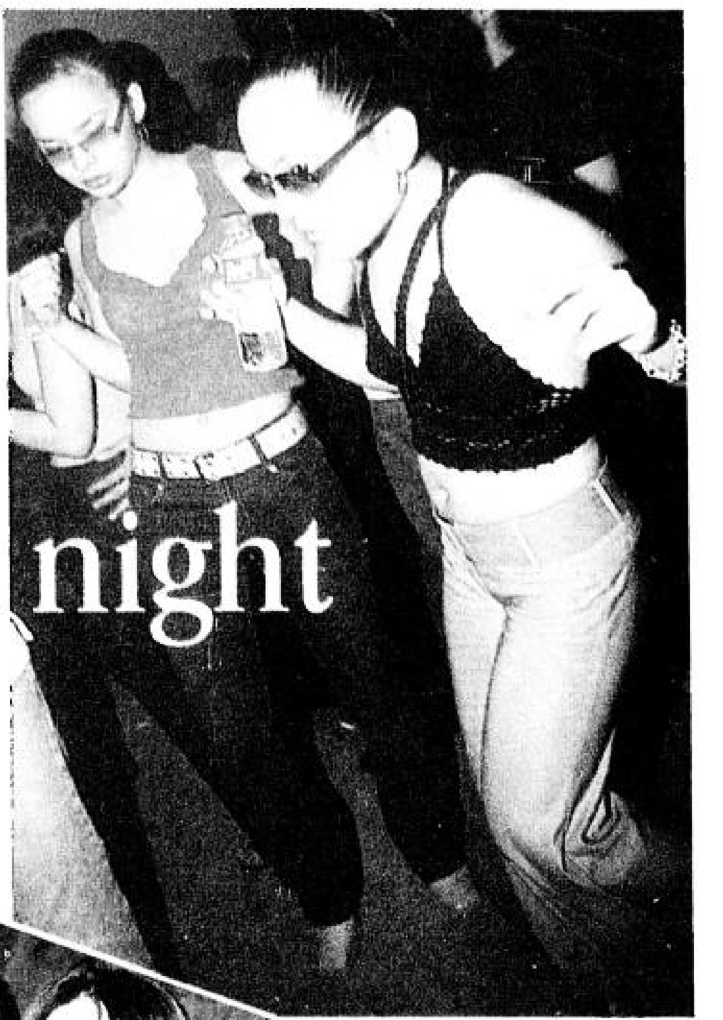
DON'T CALL ME BABY. Maegan Aguilar at Venezia

WOMEN IN WHITE. The TFL Elite girls



RAVE and rant with these party girls on the dance floor.

I wear my sunglasses at night

Text and photos by Tim Yap

OKEY, stop singing the song. Put your shades on, relax and see the world with rose-colored tints—or whatever color is your choice, for that matter. Shades have become an urbanite's ultimate accessory and necessity for nightouts—second only to the mobile phone, of course.

It used to be that wearing shades when it wasn't sunny meant that you were: a) visually handicapped; b) nursing a sore eye; c) trying to ape Stevie Wonder or Randy Santiago (remember when we used to draw shades on the Emilio Aguinaldo face on the P5 bills?).

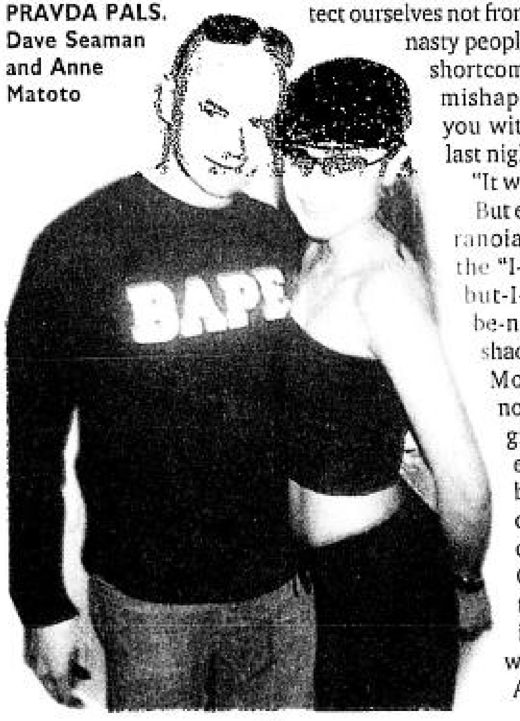
Nowadays, nobody laughs at people who don colored eyewear anymore. We belong to a shaded society of people who have to protect ourselves not from aliens but from nasty people out to spot our shortcomings or societal mishaps. As in: "I saw you with someone else last night."

"It wasn't me."

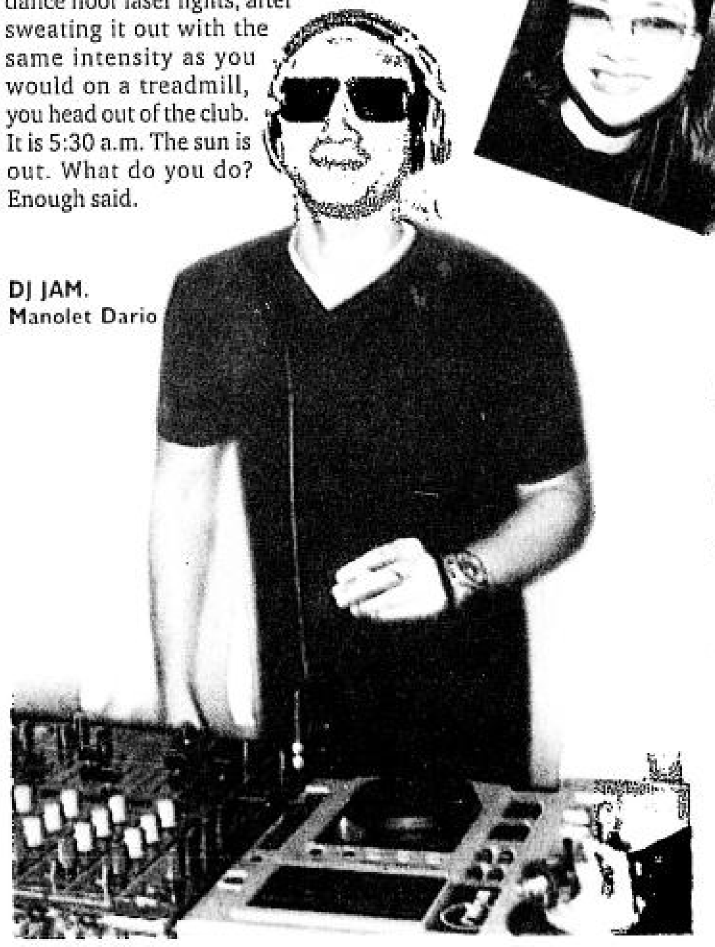
But enough of the paranoia. Nobody plays the "I-am-a-celebrity-but-I-don't-want-to-be-noticed" game of shady-ness anymore. More often than not, nobody really gives a hoot—everybody else is busy doing his own thing to care. Hmmm. On second thought, we are in Manila, aren't we?

Ask any fashionista or fashion victim and you will be told sunglasses are hip accessories because they can complete your look. They can make your look go from ho-hum to smashing! Ask Will Smith. Or Keanu Reeves for that matter. Enemy- and alien-bashing become a higher high and cooler than cool when you're sporting your favorite eyewear.

All nocturnal partyphiles who intend to indulge in the night's debauchery know better than to leave home without a pair of shades. Aside from matching them with your favorite dance floor laser lights, after sweating it out with the same intensity as you would on a treadmill, you head out of the club. It is 5:30 a.m. The sun is out. What do you do? Enough said.



PRAVDA PALS. Dave Seaman and Anne Matoto



DJ JAM. Manolet Dario

GIGLI GALS. Cris Peczon and Faith Lavarro

AMERICAN "ADOBO." Paolo Montalban spotted at the NBC Tent

Shades are hip because they complete your look

Hotel treats exlusive ladies club

MEMBERS of the Elle Club of the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila were treated to a fashion show by Sari-Sari. Titled "A Day in the Life of Today's Modern Woman," the collection consisted of the latest in corporate wear, smart casuals both for day and evening, party clothes and gowns, shoes, handbags and other accessories for every working woman's "power wardrobe."

Denise Go of Salon de Orient styled the models' hair and did their makeup.

It was a dazzling night of fun, fashion and freebies for the exclusive club composed of executive secretaries and administrative officers of the hotel's top accounts.

Three lucky Elle Club members received prizes. Issa Anabo of Ayala Land won free round-trip tickets to Honolulu, Hawaii. Lucille Adalia of Okphil Phils Inc. and Juvy Dumlao of Bell Helicopter each won a free trip to Guam. Hotel general manager Michael Herrmann and Continental Airlines general manager Ramon Magno were on hand to award the prizes.

A brainchild of the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila, the Elle Club concept has been picked up by other Inter-Continental hotels throughout the Asia-Pacific. Elle Club members earn points every time they book their companies' room or banquet requirements with the hotel.

More trips to dream destinations, and hotel, restaurant and store discounts as well as other exciting rewards await Elle Club members starting September with the launch of a bigger rewards program.

Call 815-9711 local 221-223.

WHITE shirred tube top and navy capris by Sari-Sari

HOTEL Inter-Continental Manila GM Michael Hermann, Issa Anabo, Lucille Adalia, Juvy Dumlao and Continental Airlines GM Ramon Magno

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Is the reign of the 'D.I.' over?

From page E1

one or two on tabletops. The guys were, too. Spontaneous swinging, no need for partners.

I know this is nothing new and could hardly be called a new tribal habit. Strumms has been seeing that. It's just that such free-for-all dancing at yuppie clubs (not young Orange), I think, became more pronounced with the emergence of the Spirit of '76—the retro band of '70s hobby-musicians who regrouped, reinvented themselves for this era and served as Pied Pipers for their generation of corporate-weary souls just hankering to unwind and let loose after rat-race hours—to the sounds of their wild youth.

Dish's **Philip Cu-unjieng** told me that it is really on Tuesdays, which are Spirit of '67 nights, that dancing goes on full swing. "The women know they can come here without their husbands or partners, and have fun dancing," he said.

I know some of these women. **Cora Relova** of **Budji Layug**'s B at Home leads these Spirit of '67 diehards who hardly miss a Tuesday. Cora said dancing has never been more fun for them, without them having to drag along a partner. "Women feel more free this way. You just stand up and dance when you feel like it," she said.

A few of her friends have even switched from ballroom dancing to this kind of night-out with the girls because it's fun and relatively more affordable than ballroom dancing. I guessed as much when I tagged along with **Ricky Reyes** to ballroom dancing recently. The place, even on a supposedly busy night, was half empty. I didn't see the crowds of young women I did years ago when ballroom dancing—and having the best D.I.s—became a status symbol even among the young. That night I saw only old matrons, regulars no doubt.

Ricky said it was undoubtedly the economy; in these times it's not easy to blow a few grand in one night. One must note that DI rates skyrocketed—beyond the means of the regular corporate women—when richer women (young and old alike) hiked the demand. Ricky thinks it's the economy and the peaked rates of an overheated market (in the financial sense, no other) that led to the ballroom dancing slack now. That—and I agree with Philip's opinion that now the dance market has the wide option of live bands.

An interesting reason must be that women-bonding is more acceptable than D.I.-bonding—in the eyes of many husbands. I think that the D.I. profession has been disparaged, that many women went ballroom dancing and had their favorite D.I.s because they truly enjoyed dancing and were challenged to perfect it. And being a dance instructor has become a good craft and perfectly legit profession. But then this could also be an unfair world. I heard of cases where women would sneak out of their homes, bring a change of clothes to the dance club, and slip right back into their homes before their husbands could come home. Apparently for some women, a permit was needed to go ballroom dancing.

Now there shouldn't be such obstacle when you go out with your girl friends and dance alone, even on the tabletop (undocumented and unphotographed, preferably). Even men could, like I saw that night at Dish. At long last, the Filipino man/husband doesn't have to learn how to dance—to be able to dance.

Also, dancing is now part of the fitness regimen in most gyms—from Latin dance to line dancing. The Polo Club, I learned, has line dancing sessions where you execute dance steps in a line, no partners. So women and men are jiggling along from the dance floor to the tabletop.

Cost-cutting has never been this liberating. Just have the guts to rise from your seat. I didn't because I was waiting for Louie C. to do it. He never did.

GMA and the woodwork

Just a trivial and escapist note on the State of the Nation address: Why did **GMA**'s orange tunic blend with the woodwork backdrop? This, when it's becoming apparent that the President is more conscious now of having a presidential style image, than when she assumed office. Her consultants must keep in mind that TV imaging or styling is an entirely different craft from fashion styling. As US networks have perfected, TV imaging is a science of color-design combination, proportion against background, among other things.

It's not presidential to disappear into the woodwork. When you think color and design, imagine you're out on a date and your plaid blouse blends with the plaid of the tablecloth. Gets worse on TV...

Sari-Sari Store has opened in New York City, on West 72nd Street. That's a big stride for **Marni Ocampo** and her group...

I discovered last Sunday at the **Diana Krall** concert at CCP that concert-goers are trying to perfect a new art: how and where to hide their cell phones so they don't have to surrender them at the door. I didn't know how, my friends did. Perhaps concert-goers wouldn't be as resourceful if the CCP had a faster way of returning cell phones at show's end to avoid long queues and not inconvenience the guests. My friends were forced to wait for me as I queued. Fair world, after all.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@ [illegible]

MY Time striped knitted top

GIANFRANCO Ferre Jeans

Big sale marks Italian fashion store's 20th year

GIANFRANCO Ferre Jeans

LINEA Italia Group's (LIG) 20th anniversary celebration has begun with a big sale in all LIG regular stores.

Italian fashion is literally at your feet and your fingertips, this time with 30-50-percent discounts on Italian-made clothes, shoes, bags and accessories. The 2002 collection of Versace, Versace Jeans Couture, Ferre Jeans, Dolce & Gabbana, Pal Zileri, Trussardi, Philosophy di Alberta Ferretti, Caractere, Ferrone, Max Mara, and all shoes, bags, belts, accessories are now available at 30-percent off their regular prices. Fifty-percent discounts are offered on labels David Meyer, Castellani, Allegri, Altra Moda, Pinko, AMM, Motivi, among others.

Check out the latest trends for the young and the hip (tattered, embellished jeans, barely-there tops), practical pieces loaded with versatility for the corporate woman, suits for the upwardly mobile professionals, romantic casuals (long skirts accentuated with lace for that gypsy look), Roman sandals, pumps, stilettos and mules.

Linea Italia, with maverick Filipino-Italian businessman Freddy Panicucci at the helm, has transcended the traditional limits of the fashion industry through its revolutionary marketing and pricing strategies. "We are true to our promise of giving the Filipinos a good deal, all the time," says Panicucci, who has special agreements with Italian suppliers resulting in "unheard of prices that are so affordable, they have made Italian fashion within the reach of the average Filipino consumer nationwide. The ongoing anniversary sale is just one of the ways by which LIG is showing its gratitude to the market which continues to believe in the company.

Linea Italia's anniversary sale is ongoing at Linea Italia 6750, Linea Italia, Prima Linea, Viva, Linea Uomo, Uomo Tu, and Versace Jeans Couture.

The Marconi Fashion Group (MFG), which runs and operates seven stockhouses (at 2305 Marconi corner Morse Sts. in Makati City, Robinsons Galleria, Festival Supermall, SM Manila, Cebu, Davao), has its ongoing "Price Attack" promotion with 50-percent discounts on previously discounted items (except silver tags).

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For more information, please contact your travel agent or Cathay Pacific at 849 2747 (Manila) and (032) 254 0746 (Cebu).

**Exclusive of taxes. Choice of hotels subject to availability. Terms and conditions apply until 31 August 2002.*

***HSBC Mega Hong Kong Sale Visitor Privilege Card (while stocks last)*

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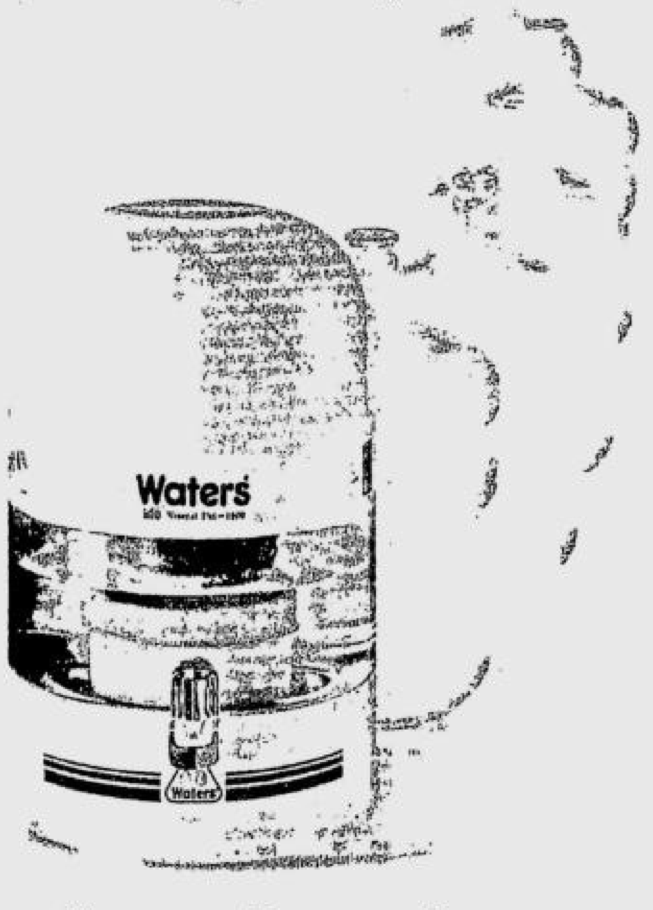

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SAINT Tropez collection

Wearable fashionable vacation spots

FAÇONNABLE, a leading European name in ready-to-wear fashion, finds inspiration in the world's most sought after vacation destinations. Clothes for both men and women evoke images of Havana, Capri, Saint Tropez, Provence and exotic Japan.

The company's Saint Tropez collection finds inspiration in the wide blue skies and turquoise waters of the favorite vacation destination of the rich and famous. The women's line features gingham-printed poplin with multicolored stripes made into knee-length skirts or into patchwork shirtwaist dresses in lemon yellow, turquoise and coral. Men's grandpa trousers and pleated pants come in stretch cavalry twill, gabardine lined with Oxford or linen for a more casual look.

HAVANA collection

The Capri collection includes navy-inspired pieces. For women, there are skirts with box pleats, loose button-front trousers and wrap-around skirts in navy, ecru, white and red, and the requisite stripes. Men get reefer jackets in Panama cloth or unlined microfiber blousons as well as linen Bermudas with drawstring waists paired with poplin seersucker shirts.

Havana evokes elegance with natural materials. Women walk the fine line between masculinity and femininity with military shirts and mandarin safari jackets. Linen cropped cigarette pants are combined with fluid chiffon tops. The men's collection uses leather, linen, cotton silk and cashmere in honey, beige, chocolate and khaki made into unstructured jackets and loose trousers as well as comfortable shirts, some with cigar pockets.

Façonnable's Provence collection for women uses warm hues and soft colors in leather, linen and cotton. Earthy shades of brown and ochre are matched with blue and pale pink in shirtwaist dresses with saddle stitching and patchwork.

Minimalist silhouettes distinguish Façonnable's Japan collection for women. Streamlined jackets with three-quarter sleeves and cigarette pants come in white, black, flesh and violet, while V-necked viscose tops are paired with figure-molding tube skirts.

Façonnable is available only at Rustan's Makati.

CAPRI collection

PROVENCE collection

JAPAN collection

Rustan's Season's Best Sale

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LIFESTYLE

Home

THE MANANSALA. Rockwell Land's latest offering

Masterpiece of high living

By Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Chito Vecina

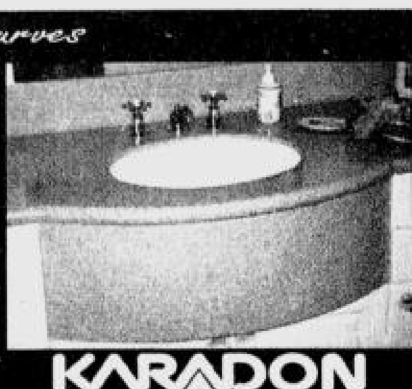
YOU MAY have thought that living at Rockwell Center—that entertainment and residential enclave of the rich, young (and not-so young) and famous—is an impossible dream, requiring millions even just for a modest piece of the urban haven. Well, the goal may not be as hard to reach as you think.

The Manansala, Rockwell Land's latest offering, is designed to make living in the posh residential/commercial area more affordable, especially if you belong to the upwardly mobile.

The condominium is currently being built in the area fronting the corporate offices of Nestlé and Phinma, and overlooks the Pasig River on one side. It offers a wide array of units to suit different lifestyles—from personal-sized areas such as studio units that range in size from 36-45 sq m, to Junior one-

MASTERPIECE/ p.F2

Nice curves



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JULY 26 SM Supercenter Sucat
JULY 28 SM City Iloilo
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AUG. 4 SM Southmall
AUG. 9 SM City Manila
AUG. 11 SM City Cebu
AUG. 16 SM City North Edsa
AUG. 18 SM City Davao
AUG. 23 SM Centerpoint
AUG. 24 SM City Pampanga
AUG. 25 SM City Fairview

Stitch Photo Spot

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JULY 26 SM City Fairview
JULY 28 SM City Iloilo
AUG. 2 SM Southmall
AUG. 3 SM City Manila
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AUG. 9 SM Supercenter Sucat
AUG. 10 SM City Bacoor
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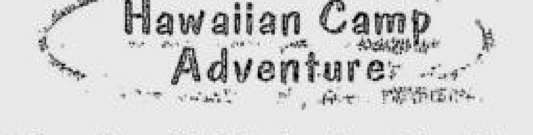
AUG. 14 SM Megamall
AUG. 15 SM City North Edsa
AUG. 16 SM City Pampanga
AUG. 18 SM City Davao



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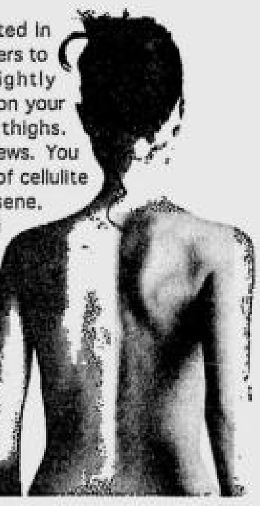
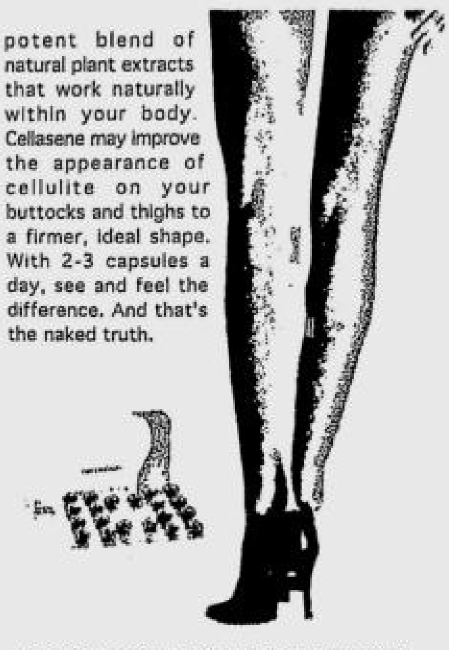
▲ CITY MANILA ▲ CITY CEBU ▲ CITY ILOILO ▲ CITY DAVAO

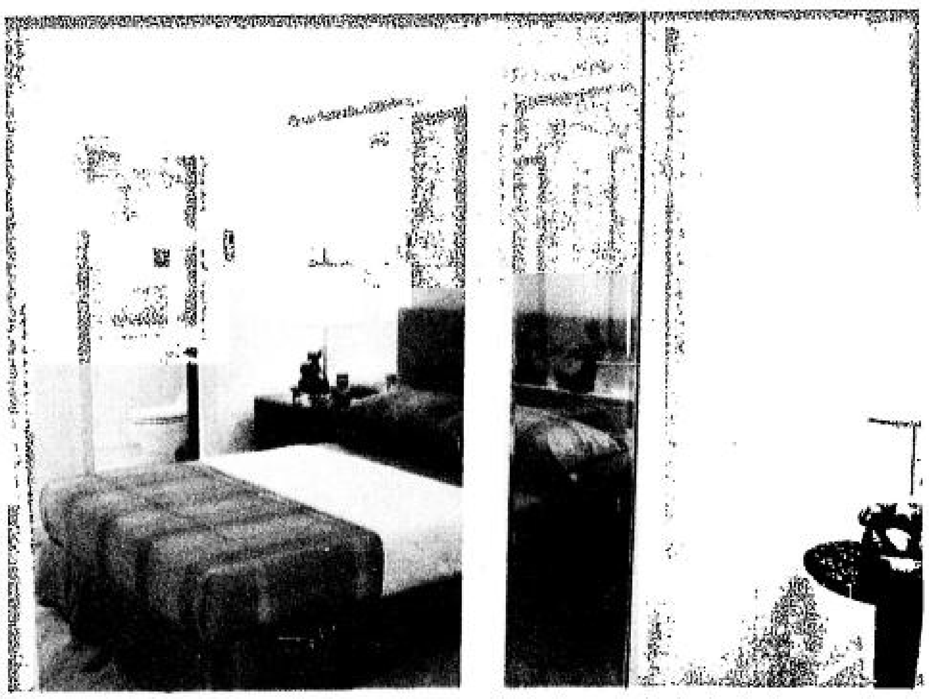


Cellulite is accumulated in your skin's deeper layers to bulge out in unsightly "orange peel" areas on your buttocks, hips and thighs. But here's the good news. You can control the look of cellulite in 6-8 weeks. Cellasene, the clinically-tested breakthrough cellulite pill has sold 15 million packs in 25 countries and is the top selling brand in Europe and Japan. Developed and made in Europe, Cellasene is a potent blend of natural plant extracts that work naturally within your body. Cellasene may improve the appearance of cellulite on your buttocks and thighs to a firmer, ideal shape. With 2-3 capsules a day, see and feel the difference. And that's the naked truth.

The naked truth!



Ask for Cellasene at Rustan's (Shangri-la, Cubao, Harrison Plaza), Mercury Drug and Watsons.
Call 817 1352 InfoText 0917 813 8885



CALMING. Touches of olive and orange warm the bedroom of a Junior bedroom unit at The Manansala.

WARMTH. Interiors of bedroom in the one-bedroom unit

Masterpiece of high living

From page F1

bedroom units for newlyweds, with floor areas from 58-94 sq m. If you're a young corporate hotshot with a wife and baby on the way, the two-bedroom unit ranging in size from 99-116 sq m might be the better option for you. The Manansala brochure asks: "How many square meters does your life need?" And the answer will depend on you and your budget.

Rockwell Land president Nestor Padilla says an entire lifestyle concept is being sold, and not just a condominium unit. Living next to a mall that boasts of first-rate shopping and entertainment and one of the best-equipped sports clubs in the city, the Manansala yuppie resident will not have to walk far to indulge in quality leisure time. Padilla is proud to say that, although the real estate sector is still in the doldrums, The Manansala has been selling at an average of 22 units per month. The Lopez group of companies may be faced with some problems these days, but it appears that the people who have bought units here have still have full faith and trust in the corporation and what it is selling.

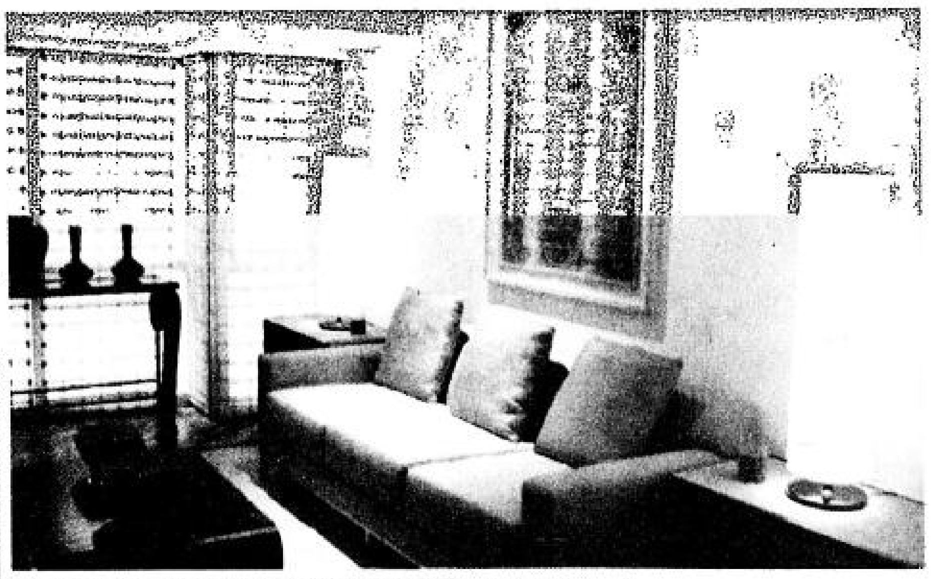
Most of the Manansala buyers are relatively young, ranging in age from late 20s to mid-30s. Couples are usually two-income young urbanites on the way up the corporate ladder. The fastest units to go are the one- and two-bedroom units that will be ready for occupancy in 2005.

Though the amenities surrounding The Manansala have admittedly been a consideration, the condominium also boasts of features comparable to its larger and higher priced siblings in the Rockwell Center, such as Hidalgo Place and Amorsolo Square. The Manansala's two towers will be anchored by a gracious Asian-themed lobby with quiet foyers surrounded by pocket parks and greenery. There will be a fire and security command center with a closed circuit television, five high-speed passenger elevators, retail shops and a central mail room. The condominium will have its own gym and fitness center, a swimming and wading pool in a tropical garden setting, a children's playground, multipurpose function room and a roofdeck patio for parties and functions. Like other upscale properties, The Manansala will have an automatic fire alarm and fire protection system, 100-percent standby emergency power, 24-hour security and electronic access security system at the basement parking, ground floor and podium parking levels, driver paging system, and a self-service laundry area.

The private areas have the distinctive Rockwell touch, evident even in the minutest detail. Narra wood parquet flooring for the living, dining and bedroom areas; floor to ceiling glass windows with a dark blue tint for the living and dining areas; solid core wood door panel for the main entrance; a modular kitchen cabinet system finished in wood laminate; imported mosaic tiles for the bathroom with a marble stone counter top; and two-fan exhaust system for the kitchen and bathrooms.

MASTERPIECE/ p.F3

TASTE OF THE ORIENT. Main living area of Junior bedroom model unit designed by Sylvia Lopez

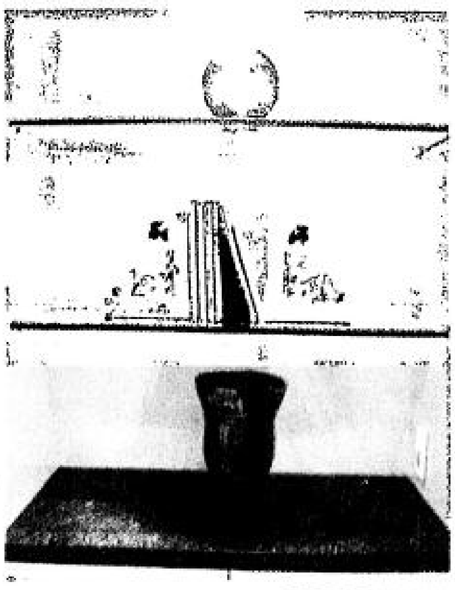


SUBDUED colors warm the living room area of a one-bedroom model unit.

MODULAR kitchen system with wood laminates in the Junior one bedroom unit.

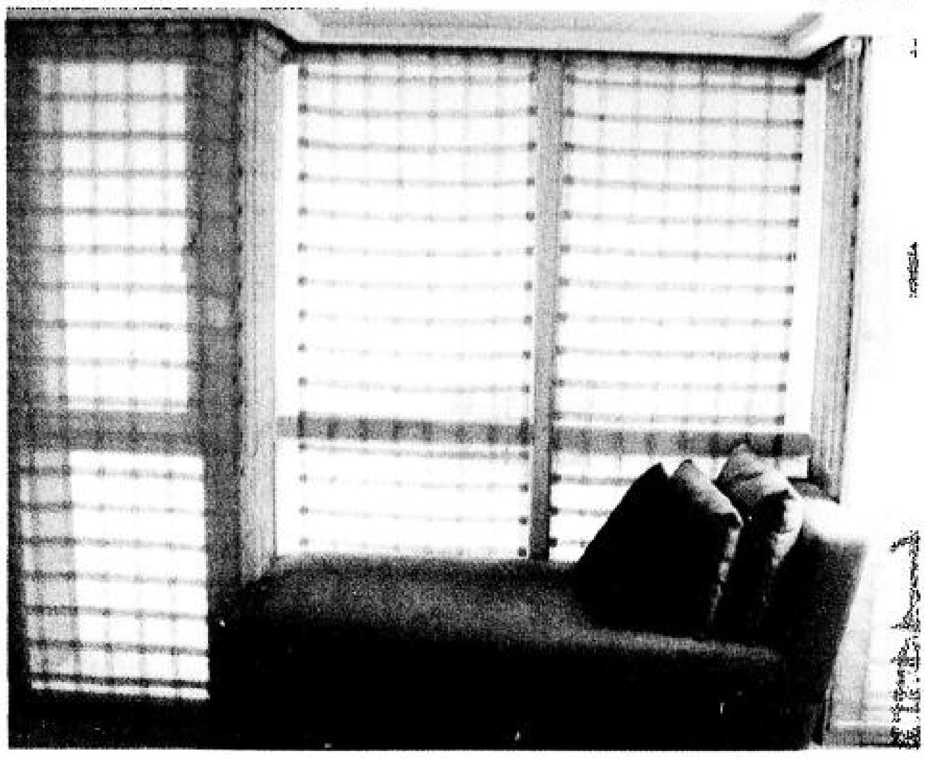
> The Manansala is designed to make living in the Rockwell Center more affordable, especially for the upwardly mobile

NARRA parquet flooring provides light contrast to dark wood furniture. Gauze-like Roman blinds allow natural light to come in during the day.



REFLECTION CORNER. A quiet nook in the Junior bedroom unit

GOD IS IN THE DETAILS. Lopez provides quaint Oriental touches to a shelf in the foyer.



A COZY nook for reading or reflecting in the one-bedroom unit

Masterpiece of high living

From page F2

Two-bedroom units have a maid's room with toilet and bath. Owners of smaller units, we suppose, will have to do the housekeeping themselves or ask a cleaning lady to come in once a week. All units have audio intercom systems connected to the Lobby Reception and Concierge. They are also set for cable TV and two telephone lines, plus water heater installation. Each unit has its own parking space. Guests of residents will also have ample parking space.

For the great location and fabulous amenities, a would-be Manansala resident will have to pay between P3.4 million to P4.2 million for a studio depending upon the size, the floor level and the view that you want—Powerplant, the Pasig River or another building.

To give a better idea of what it costs to live at the Manansala, let's say you are a single young man or woman, in your late 20s, with a successful career, a hefty savings account and a high five-figure salary. You've decided that when you hit 30, you'd like to have your own private space in that urban haven called the Rockwell Center. How much is it going to cost you? For a studio unit at The Manansala measuring 39 sq m, which is all the space you need for now, and a parking slot for your brand new car, you will have to pay about P4.16 million.

Too steep? Consider these terms—let's say you paid a reservation fee of P100,000 today, July 26. A week later, on Aug. 2, you would have to pay the balance of the 10-percent downpayment of P416,000 or P316,000. A month later, on Sept. 3, you start paying until Dec. 2005 for 15 percent—P624,000—of the total amount of P4.16 million. That translates into a monthly amortization of P15,219.51 per month, which is considerably much less than what you would probably pay if you rented a condominium in the Makati area.

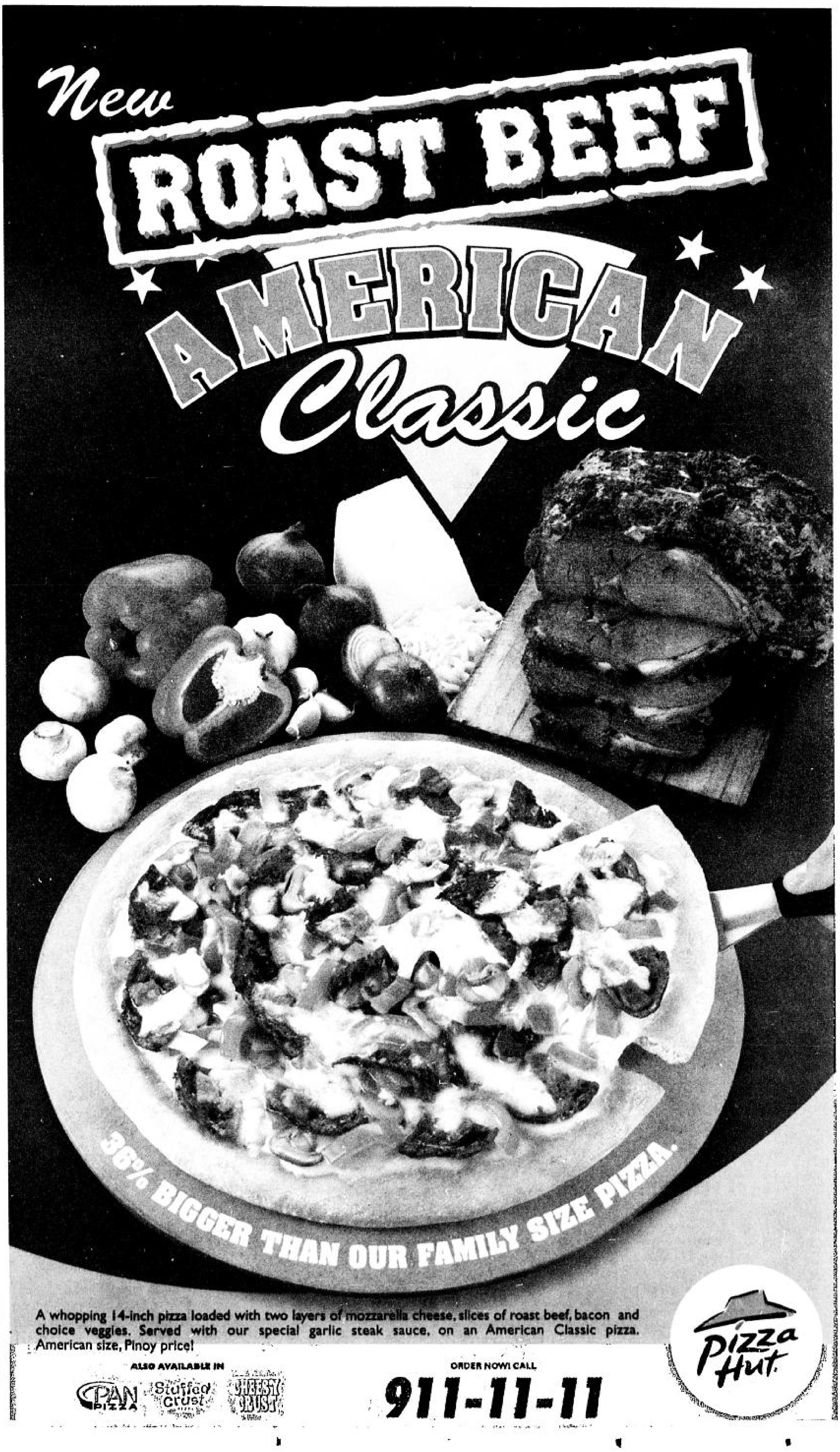
However, in addition to the monthly amortization, you need to pay a lump sum equivalent to 5 percent of the total amount once a year on the date when you made your first payment of P100,000. That means P208,000 every July 26 in 2003, 2004 and 2005. You pay what remains of the P4.16 million or P2.496 million when you finally take possession of the unit you bought. You can choose from other payment schemes or avail of huge discounts if you opt to make your purchase in cash.

The Manansala is certainly worth considering if you want to buy into the kind of lifestyle it represents and if you are looking for a good investment. Hopefully you'll soon be ending your days in the studio and start a new life in your very own piece of urban heaven, overlooking all that you once had hoped and dreamed for.

Visit the Rockwell Land Information Center to view the model units or call 890-6888 for more information.

E-mail the author at cbguballa @inquirer.com.ph

SYLVIA Lopez, low-key and elegant designer of The Manansala Junior bedroom model unit



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PUREFOODS
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- Regular

1 kg
TLC PRICE
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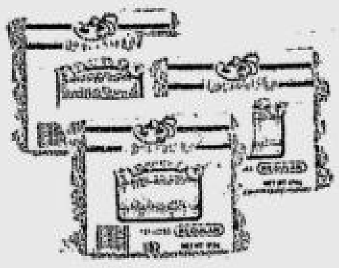
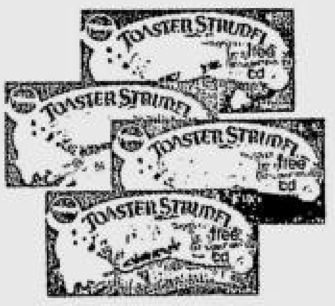


BRAVO
Hotdog
- Regular Red

250 g
TLC PRICE
P27^{00}/pk.
Reg. Price 32.00



PILLSBURY
Toaster Strudel
- Strawberry
- Chocolate
- Blueberry
- Apple

325 g
TLC PRICE
P128^{00}/ea.
Reg. Price 139.00

SILVER SWAN
Soy Sauce
385 mL
TLC PRICE
P7^{50}/ea.
Reg. Price 7.85

MARCA PIÑA
Sukang Puti
355 mL
TLC PRICE
P5^{50}/ea.
Reg. Price 5.80

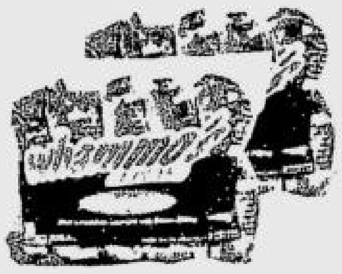
DEL MONTE
Tomato Sauce
1 kg
TLC PRICE
P52^{00}/ea.

LASAP
Seasoned Breading Mix
- Crispy
- Hot & Spicy
- BBQ
- Garlic

55 g
TLC PRICE
P11^{00}/ea.
Reg. Price 12.75

WALTER
Super Loaf
- Thick Slice

600 g
TLC PRICE
P25^{00}/ea.



WHAMMO'S
Cupcake
- With Choco Filling
- Cheese Yema
- Ube Pandan

10's
TLC PRICE
P42^{00}/ea.
Reg. Price 46.00

WHITE KING
Fiesta Spaghetti
425 g
TLC PRICE
P16^{75}/ea.

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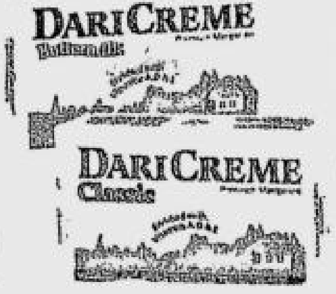
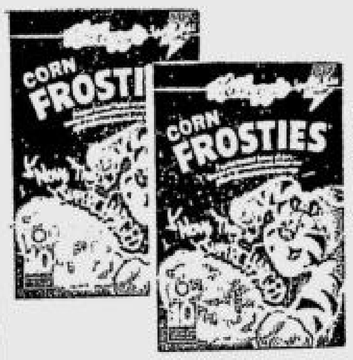


DARI CREME
Butter
- Classic
- With Buttermilk

225 g
TLC PRICE
P17^{50}/ea.

NESTLÉ
Classic Ice Cream
- Ube
- Mango

900 mL
TLC PRICE
P84^{75}/ea.
Reg. Price 93.00



KELLOGG'S
Breakfast Cereals
- Corn Frosties

175 g
TLC PRICE
P65^{25}/ea.
Reg. Price 68.50

PILLSBURY
One-Step Hotcake Mix
500 g
TLC PRICE
P38^{50}/ea.
Reg. Price 39.50

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Coffee Drink In Can
- Cappuccino

240 mL
TLC PRICE
P22^{75}/ea.
Reg. Price 23.75

EQUAL
Natural Sweetener
50 g
TLC PRICE
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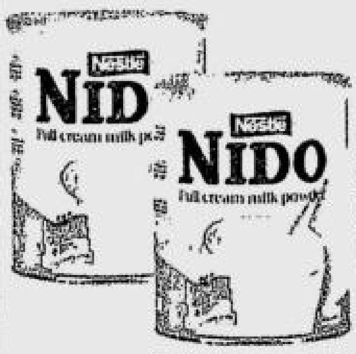
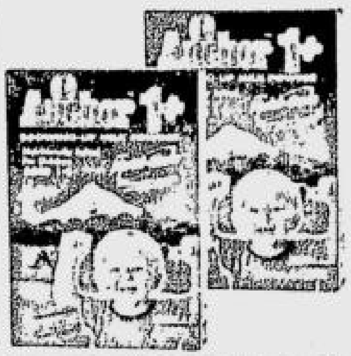
Reg. Price 115.75

CARNATION
Condensada
300 mL
TLC PRICE
P23^{75}/ea.



NIDO
Full Cream Milk Powder
900 g
TLC PRICE
P190^{00}/ea.

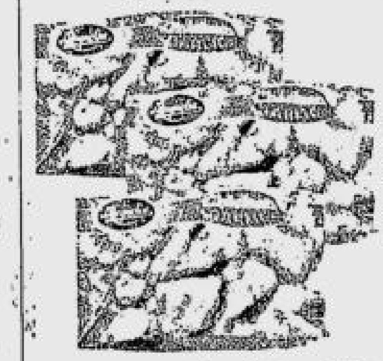


ANCHOR 1+
Growing-Up Milk Powder
450 g
TLC PRICE
P126^{25}/ea.

SWIFT
Sweet 'n Juicy Hotdog
- Cocktail

1 kg
TLC PRICE
P98^{00}/pk.
Reg. Price 104.00

ANCHOR
UHT Whipping Cream
1 Liter
TLC PRICE
P135^{50}/ea.
Reg. Price 149.50



MAGNOLIA
Garlic Chicken
600 g
TLC PRICE
P66^{00}/ea.
Reg. Price 75.00

ANCHOR 1+
Growing-Up Milk Powder
180 g
TLC PRICE
P50^{75}/ea.

MILK MAGIC
UHT Full Cream Milk
1 Liter
TLC PRICE
P31^{50}/ea.
Reg. Price 33.50

SELECTA
Moo Milk Drink
- Ube
- Vanilla
- Strawberry
- Melon

250 mL
TLC PRICE
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Reg. Price 12.25

BLUSKIES
Crackers
- Cheese

25 g / 10's
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P18^{50}/ea.
Reg. Price 19.50

DANONE
Jacobs Hi-Calcium Crackers
- Original
- Vegetables

180 g
TLC PRICE
P74^{50}/ea.
Reg. Price 79.50

MONDE
Bread Stix
20 g / 10's
TLC PRICE
P21^{00}/pk.
Reg. Price 22.00

JACK 'N JILL
Piattos
- Cheese

65 g
TLC PRICE
P16^{00}/ea.

Total Lo

Storm

JOLLY
Cream Soup
- Mushroom

298 g.
TLC PRICE
P21^{25}/ea.
Reg. Price 22.25

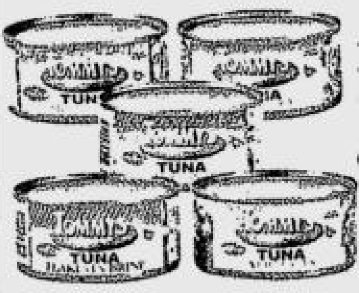
PUREFOODS
Pork & Beans
220 g
TLC PRICE
P13^{60}/ea.

SABA
Pink Salmon
- In Natural Oil

155 g
TLC PRICE
P14^{75}/ea.

CENTURY
Bangus
- In Oil
- With Tausi

260 g
TLC PRICE
P31^{75}/ea.
Reg. Price 33.00



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Tuna
- Or Selected Variants

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P19^{75}/ea.

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175 g
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- Chili Garlic
60 g / 5's + 1
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NISSIN
Yakisoba Mini Cup
- Spicy Chicken
- Beef
- Gambas
60 g
TLC PRICE
P11.65 /ea.

QUICKCHOW
Instant Mami
- Chicken
- Beef
55 g
TLC PRICE
P3.55 /ea.

WHITE KING
Arroz Cald-O
113 g
TLC PRICE
P25.50 /ea.
Reg. Price 26.75

WHITE KING
Champ-O-Rado
113 g
TLC PRICE
P16.75 /ea.
Reg. Price 17.50

RHEA
Isopropyl Alcohol
- Compound 70%
500 mL
TLC PRICE
P32.75 /ea.
Reg. Price 34.75

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JELLIYUM
Buko Pandan Jelly
18's
TLC PRICE
P19.50 /pk.
Reg. Price 21.50

M&M's
Chocolate Candies
- Plain
- with Peanut
158.8 g
TLC PRICE
P63.00 /ea.
Reg. Price 71.50

MARKENBURG
Marshmallows
- Twist Vanilla
- Marshies
250 g
TLC PRICE
P21.50 /ea.
Reg. Price 24.50

LIPTON
Ice Tea
- Mango
500 g
TLC PRICE
P47.75 /ea.
Reg. Price 49.25

FUNCHUM
Juice Drink
- Orange
- Apple
- Lemon Ice Tea
200 mL
TLC PRICE
P4.25 /ea.
Reg. Price 4.50

EIGHT O'CLOCK
Powder Juice Drink
- Orange
- Orange Mango
- Orange Pineapple
500 g
TLC PRICE
P34.50 /ea.

HIDDEN SPRING
Natural Mineral Water
5.68 Liters (1.5 gal.)
TLC PRICE
P53.00 ea.
Reg. Price 58.00

GILBEY'S
London Dry Gin
700 mL
TLC PRICE
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Reg. Price 47.75

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- Licorice
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Adult Diaper Maxi
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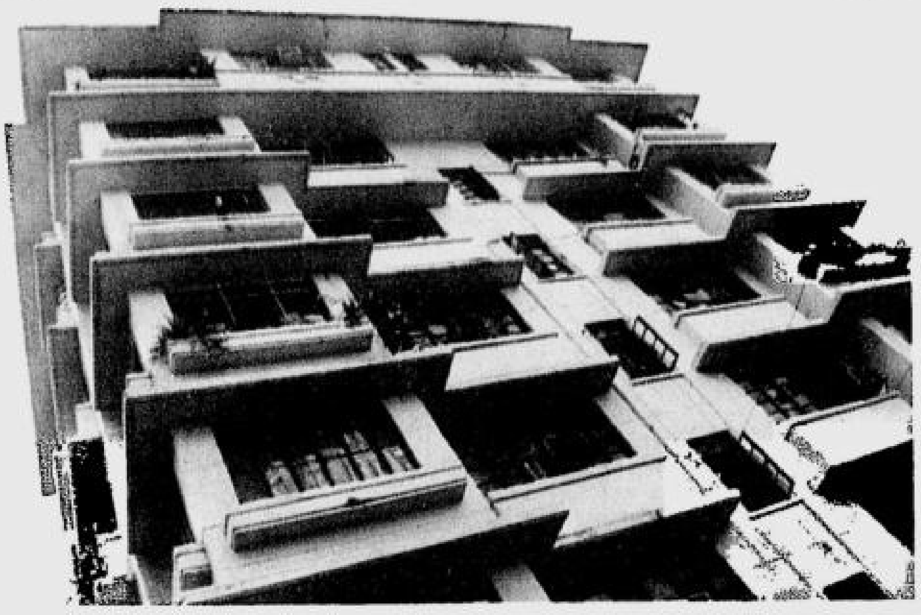
PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO. 1379 SERIES OF 2002



THE REAR façade of the Angela Apartments shows the rich counterpoint of horizontal planes that shade the tropical sun from the large window openings.

An Art Deco angel in our midst

The Angela Apartments in Malate still shows the past architectural vibrancy of Manila

By Augusto Villalón

"PEACE Time" in the Philippines was that period before the Second World War during the era of the Commonwealth when the country grew into political maturity, achieved relative economic stability, and looked beyond its shores to avail of the rapid technological advances of the era. It was an era of worldwide prosperity. A new way of life had come to the Philippines.

The progressive lifestyle of the era was expressed in fashion, art, decorative arts and architecture. Art Deco was a style introduced at the 1925 Paris Exhibition, the "Exposition des Arts Decoratifs." The exposition was a reaction to the classically influenced design prevalent during the day. Art Deco took to African and Egyptian motifs, stylized them in the design of decorative arts that, however, ultimately influenced architecture. Shapes were geometric.

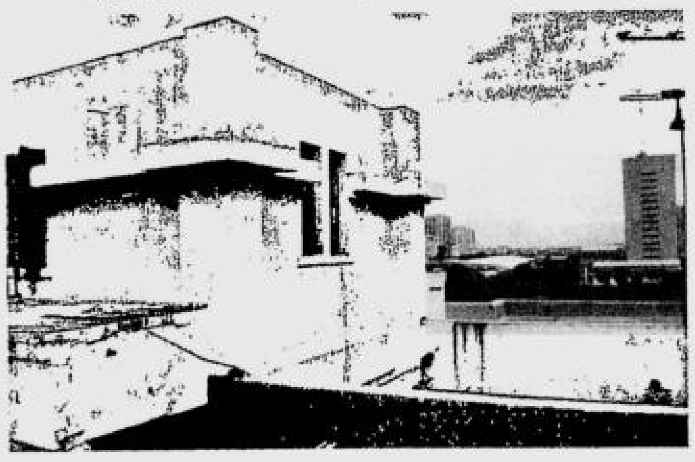
The Art Deco style quickly captured the imagination of the world, becoming the look that best symbolized the futuristic stance of the era. In the late 1920s, streamlined shapes became the hallmark of modernity. The ocean liner exemplified the look with cars, refrigerators and other home appliances; graphics, lettering and architecture following suit. Streamlining represented everything that was considered modern for those days. The style was dubbed "streamlined modern" and later, simply "moderne."

The architectural scene in Manila was vibrant, riding on the bandwagon of the new technology rapidly being introduced all around the world. By the mid-1930s in Manila, everything was coming up moderne. The new Far Eastern University campus was designed by National Artist Pablo Antonio in the moderne style to deliberately reflect the forward vision of the school. The moderne buildings of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex were conceived by architect Juan Arellano as a series of sinuous curved surfaces, punctuated by porthole windows connected by horizontal bands of thin concrete as sunshades running below flat roofs.

Keeping up

Manila was streamlining, keeping up with the rest of the world and changing into a moderne city. New building technology allowed buildings to go high-rise. The elevator allowed people to get up into the new high-rises. Like the rest of the world, Manila was building upwards. It was the way to go.

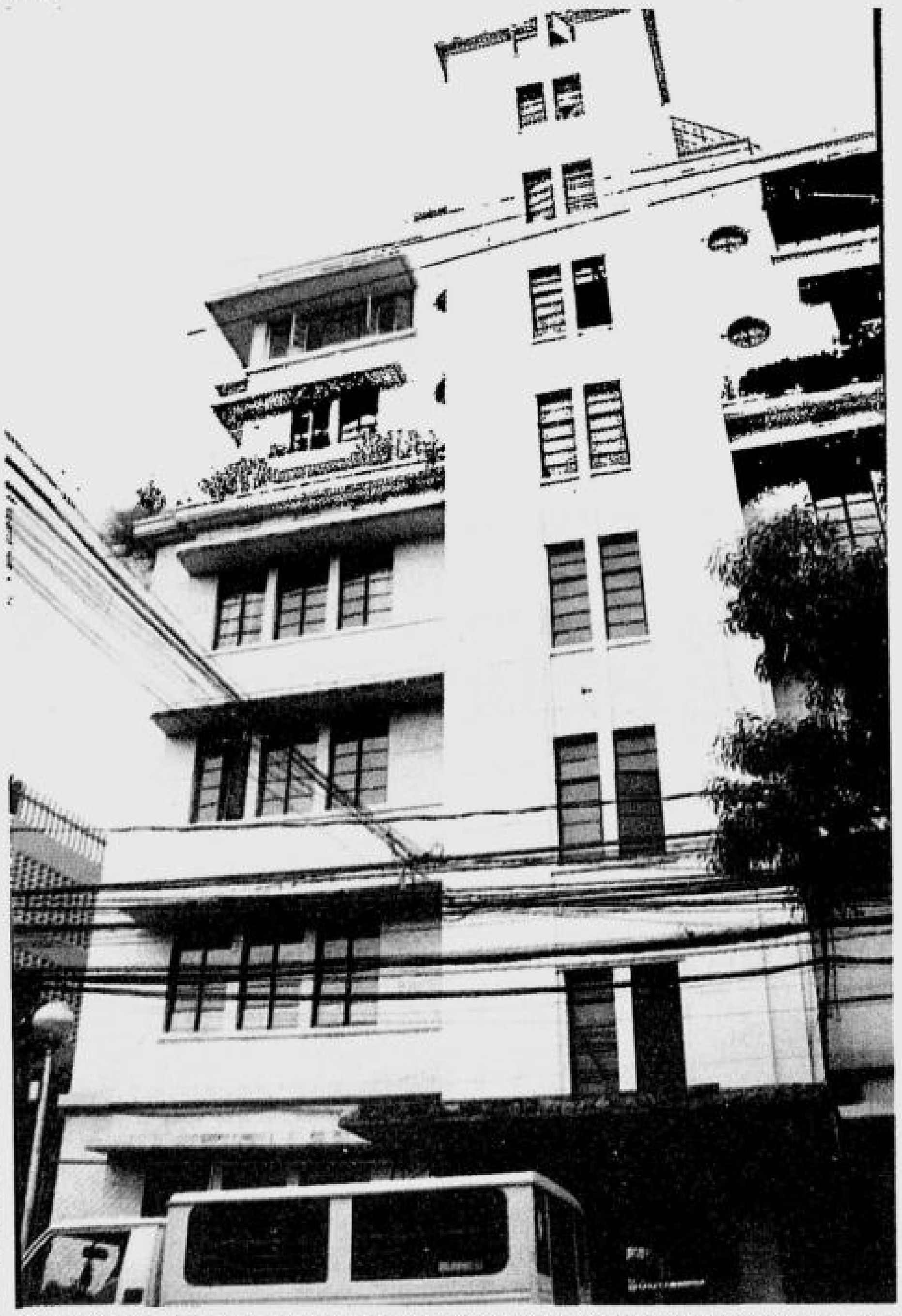
Art Deco details on the roof deck.
PHOTOS BY GREGORY DORRIS



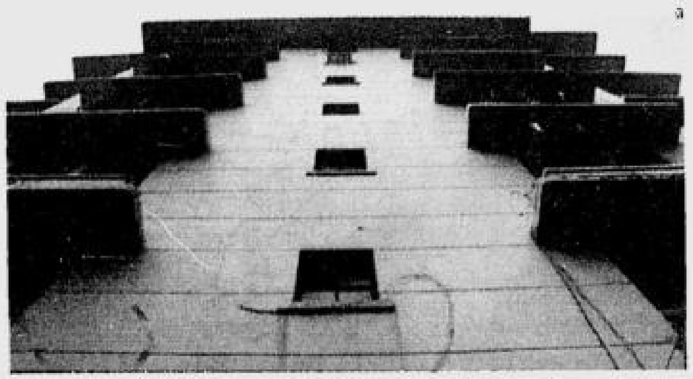
One of the few surviving examples of the pioneering Manila high-rises is the Angela Apartments on MH del Pilar Street in Ermita. One of the first multi-story structures to be completed during the Commonwealth period, the building set architectural trends. It was among the first of the multi-story residential buildings in Manila and one of the first to have a passenger elevator integrated into the seven-story building design. It was two stories taller than its neighbors, the North SyQuia and South SyQuia apartments.

It is indeed a Manila landmark. The Angela should have been quite a sight during its prime. Although it has fallen into disrepair, its still discernable "bone structure" survives, reflecting the streamlined elegance of its Art Deco Moderne architecture.

Architecturally, its façade was designed around a nine-story central tower that anchors seven floors of apartments on either side. It is a tropical building with large windows shaded by horizontal bands of narrow concrete. Plant boxes form a second, wider horizontal band beneath the windows that establish a rhythm in counterpoint to the sleek verticality of the central tower. A vertical ribbon window running the entire length of the tower emphasizes its height.



SEVEN floors of apartments with façades framed in horizontal planes of thin concrete rotate around a high central vertical volume, an Art Deco interplay of geometric shapes.



HORIZONTAL planes break the severe verticality of one of Manila's earliest skyscrapers.

Hallmark

The Angela exhibits typical hallmarks of moderne architecture. Recalling the sleek ocean liner image of the day, porthole windows frame the central tower. The top three floors are set back to emphasize verticality. The outer walls are of smooth, taut concrete that quickly turn into rounded corners that complete the streamlined effect so beloved during the 1930s.

Each floor of the building is divided into only two apartments, with windows on three sides to provide ample ventilation for the hot tropics. Glass doors framed in hardwood set off choice views of Manila Bay seen from the bedrooms in the rear of the building. Balconies open to face busy MH del Pilar Street. Built in a bygone era, ceilings are three meters high and floors are of luxurious wood. Clearly, this is an apartment building built to last from the best *materials fuertes*, nothing like today's speculative buildings quickly slapped together by contractors in time for a quick sale.

The architecture, interior ambiance and structural integrity of the Angela validate its landmark status. By all counts, it is one of Manila's heritage buildings, an excellent example of period architecture. That the building has survived with relatively minor damage in a time when heritage buildings are routinely demolished is a miracle. The building deserves to reclaim its heritage status.

In other countries, buildings of this status receive assistance to ensure its survival. They are protected by law against demolition. To help their restoration, they receive tax holidays, are granted loans at favorable rates from commercial banks, and are exempt from contemporary building permit requirements that an old building cannot possibly fulfill.

Art Deco Manila, the Metropolitan Theater, the Alhambra Apartments on Roxas Boulevard, the North and South SyQuia Buildings, the surviving residences on Vito Cruz Street, and the Rizal Memorial Complex are endangered by "progress" and "development." Another important Philippine Art Deco structure, the Jai Alai building, was lost despite heated public outcry. The Angela is one of the few remaining Art Deco buildings in Manila that is trying to survive.

Florida example

What's in it for us to save the Angela? Take a look at what Miami (Florida, US) did with its Art Deco buildings. Slightly over a decade ago, a neighborhood of Art Deco buildings in Miami was restored. The old buildings were given new uses, converted into hotels, restaurants, offices and apartments. As a result, the once-decaying neighborhood around the Art Deco buildings were revived, growing into a popular destination for locals and tourists alike. Now known all over the world as the Art Deco District, the area is a tourist draw for Miami and a source of civic pride for the locals. Enough Art Deco buildings remain in Ermita to form the basic building stock to spark an urban revival in the area. With its plan for restoration, the Angela is poised to spearhead much-needed urban renewal in Ermita. Imagine what an Art Deco Ermita would be like!

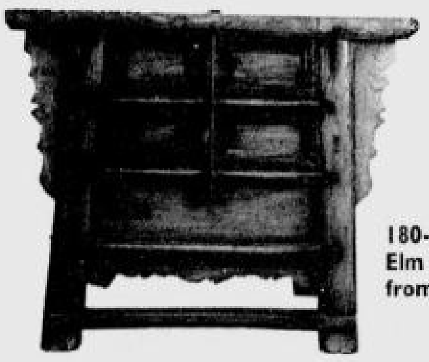
Angela Apartments is a building of pedigree. Its architect, the highly esteemed Fernando Ocampo, was one of this country's pioneers of modern architecture, together with his contemporaries Juan Nakpil and Andres Luna de San Pedro. Ocampo completed his civil engineering degree at the University of Santo Tomas in 1921. He continued his education and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in architecture. He pursued advanced architectural studies at the American Academy in Rome before joining the firm of Ballinger and Perrot in Philadelphia in 1922. The following year, he returned to the Philippines, worked at the architecture division of the Bureau of Public Works, and in 1928, formed a partnership with Tomás Arguelles. Ocampo was one of the founders of the UST School of Architecture in 1930. He was also a member of the board of examiners from 1929-30.

Ocampo is best known for his design of the Manila Cathedral. Other buildings designed by Ocampo are the Admiral Apartments on Roxas Boulevard and the CuUnjieng Building on Escolta.

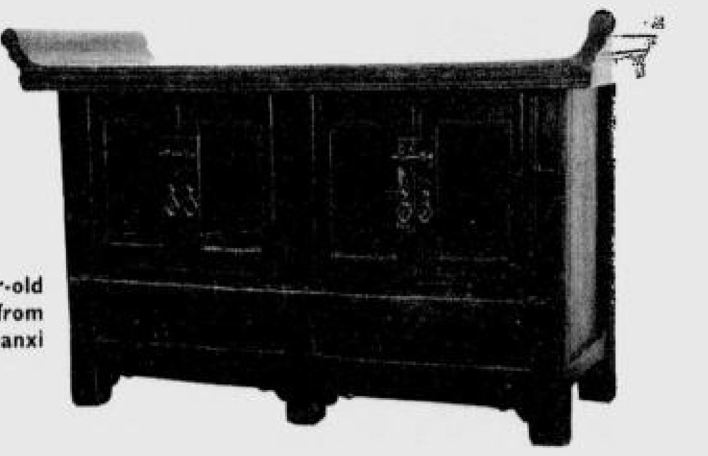
In this age when heritage is seen to have little commercial value, Angela Apartments is taking a bold step in reaffirming its heritage, planning for a restoration of the Art Deco structure and making itself relevant once again as an old building that enriches today's way of life in Manila.

Feedback is welcome at afv@pacific.net.ph

Distinguished antique Chinese furniture



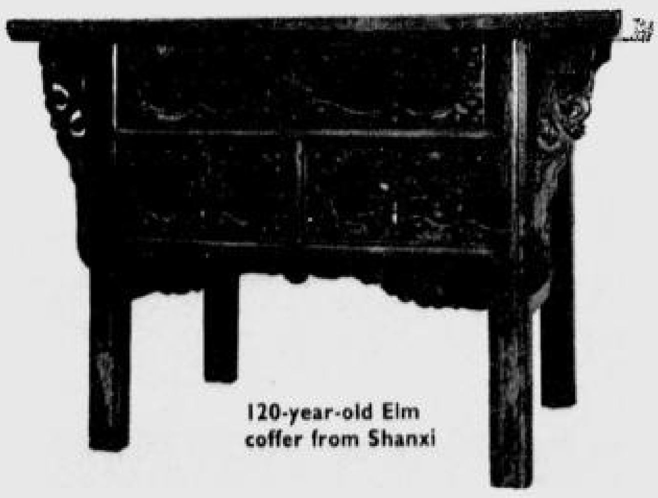
180-year-old rare Elm Money Chest from Shanxi



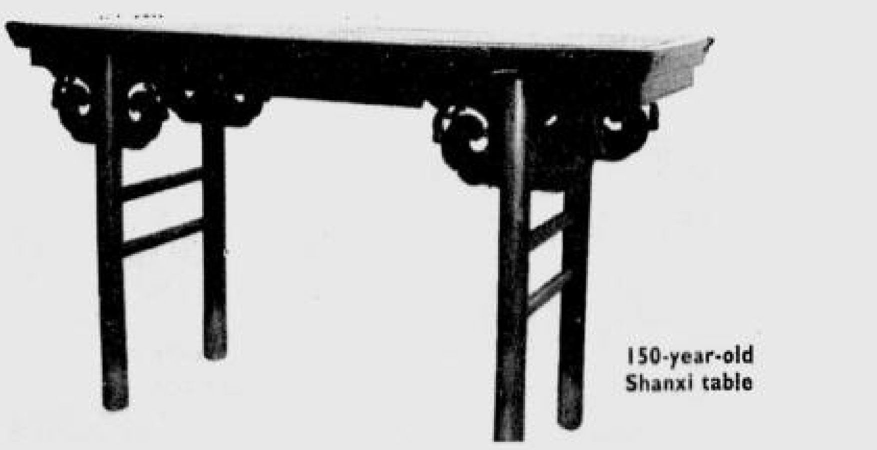
130-year-old Elm chest from Shanxi

AN OUTSTANDING collection of Chinese antique furniture will be on exhibition and sale on Aug. 1 at the north court of the Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, Makati. The carefully chosen pieces are 100-160 years old and come mostly from the province of Shanxi.

In his book "C.L. MA Collection: Traditional Chinese Furniture from the Greater Shanxi Region," Curtis Evarts writes: "The decoration and style of traditional furniture from Shanxi are complex and multifaceted. Reflecting conservative preferences, it frequently exhibits 'early' traditional styles associated with the Tang, Song, Yuan and early Ming dynasties; furthermore, there is evidence that traditional 'Ming' or 'classical' styles were produced right into the 20th century. Strong provincial characteristics can also be traced to the Khitan, Jurchen and Mongolian cultures of the respective Liao, Jin, Yuan dynasties, whose expansive territories included the region of Shanxi for well over four centuries (916-1368). Qing-style Shanxi furniture generally has a robust and archaic character which mirrors the personality of its people."



120-year-old Elm coffer from Shanxi



150-year-old Shanxi table

Doing a 'Katipunan' in our airports

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

THE WORK that residents, institutions and commercial establishments are undertaking on Katipunan Avenue, QC, is commendable. It is doubly so because it is no easy task. Those who look after and monitor all the phases of the beautification program are volunteers determined to see their surroundings clean, green and beautiful. The road, after all, leads to some of the country's best educational institutions and thriving business enterprises. It deserves to be a place that everyone could be proud of.

Unpleasant things have to be tackled to reach that end—vandalism, unsightly waste, irresponsible pedestrians and, every now and then, bureaucratic red tape. How the volunteers are faring in the face of such difficulties must be told separately. Right now, we take note of how the Katipunan volunteers have inspired others.

An e-mail from a reader, whom we will just call MS since we do not have her permission to reveal her identity, is an example of how one idea—in this case, the dogged efforts of those in the private sector in Katipunan—has given birth to another for a similar purpose in a different locality. We quote excerpts of MS' letter that explain it all:

"Whenever I pass by Katipunan Road, I never fail to be amazed by the difference you and your group [this refers to the Katipunan volunteers with whom I have been mistakenly included—DGN] have made in the area in terms of cleanliness and beautification.

"That is why I am proposing that similar efforts be made [in] the blighted area near our domestic and international airports. There are times when we see the area being improved but there is no sustained effort. It is a pity.

"Compared to Singapore and Malaysia, which have done so much to beautify their airport areas, ours have been neglected. One way to go about it (beautification) is for different business establishments or NGOs to 'adopt' specific areas to beautify, landscape and maintain. To drum up interest in the project, some sort of competition could be sponsored by a government agency, with prizes that would serve to recognize and reward the efforts exerted.

"The success in Katipunan should be replicated in areas around our airports. Since the local government does not seem to be equal to the task nor does the Department of Tourism, where else do we turn but to the private sector?"

It's a good question, MS, for there are many other places that need cleaning and upkeep, Pasay City among them. It's too bad you do not live near the airports so you can be part of the groups that you propose could best undertake the job. But thank you for the suggestion. We just hope concerned citizens and environmentalists will take it up.

Katipunan report

Annie S. Cruz, the indefatigable "Katipunera" who is part of the team taking charge and monitoring the planting and cleaning of Katipunan Road, informs us that QC Mayor Sonny Belmonte has sent the loads of garden soil he promised. With the soil, MMDA gardeners and workers are now laying the groundwork for more planting on the islands and the overpass along Katipunan.

One cannot help being infected with Annie's enthusiasm and joy when pledges are fulfilled. To her, it means not all local officials are indifferent to environmental problems. Some do care. She is saddened only when she must deal with red tape when following up those pledges. She recounts that, only recently, a government employee who approves the delivery of much-needed material for the Katipunan project told her that there was so much to do in their office that were more important than just beautification.

Annie turned to the employee and told her off to this effect: "I am a volunteer. I don't work for the government, but I'm trying to do my part. You are with the government. This delivery has been approved and it is your job to see that it gets to its destination."

Sometimes, good intentions are not enough. You've got to be gutsy and stick to your position if you want to accomplish anything. Annie had other unfavorable observations of how that employee's office was being run. But, for the time being, she's just sticking to her Katipunan project report.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

Kitchen and bath designs meet family's needs

UNIVERSAL Design for the kitchen and bath takes into consideration the changing needs of the family. It also aims to ensure that the room is safe and comfortable for the people who will use it. To help you construct your own universal kitchen and bath, Delta Faucet provides you with these basic guidelines.

Safe flooring. Slipping and tripping are common causes of accidents in the house. Choose non-skid and non-slip flooring, such as textured tiles rather than glossy tiles. Carpets are easier on the feet and will help prevent breakage of dropped items. Avoid area rugs, which can come loose and cause slips.

Efficient countertops. The countertop is the work area of the kitchen. Plan for long stretches of countertop so you can slide, rather than lift, heavy items. Locate the countertop just below the hips. You may also create a seated working area at the sink or food preparation center. For both the kitchen and the bath, get counters with edges in different colors so they are more visible.

Handles with care. One of the primary concerns in setting up a kitchen or bathroom is safety. Another Universal Design tip is to install grab bars around the shower and toilet areas to reduce risk of accidents in the bathroom. Get a kitchen faucet with a spray attachment such as the Delta Pull-Out Kitchen Spray to avoid having to carry water-filled pots from the sink to the stove. Make kitchen work easier with the Delta Waterfall line with its elegant high-arching spout that lets you wash large pots and pans with relative ease.

For the bathroom, Delta recently introduced the e-Flow electronic faucet with hands-free activation, easy for people of all ages to use and saves water as well. Delta's shower systems also have a Scald-Guard valve which helps protect you and your family from dangerously hot water temperatures.

Accessible storage. Accessibility is the key consideration in installing cabinets and drawers. Arrange cabinets so the heaviest and most frequently used items are stored between hip and shoulder height, where they can be easily reached. Opt for cabinets with drawers rather than doors. Drawers provide easier access. Use roll-out shelves in base cabinets (or those near the floor) to lessen bending down, which may be difficult for older people. Avoid knobs on doors or drawers. Instead, use C-shaped handles for kitchen cabinet doors or drawers. In the bathroom, try touch latch doors or D-ring handles. Have cabinets at variable heights that different users can easily reach.

'De-pressurize' your life with Zen garden

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Zen Gardening is an antidote to the stresses of modern living and promotes health.

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Maxi-Q™ formula improved with Inulin! DUMEX 3Plus is the only growing up milk with Maxi-Q™ for your child's total development. It contains Neuronutrients ™ to boost his brain, Enteronutrients for better digestion and Immunonutrients for a stronger immune system. Now it's enhanced with Inulin which improves digestion and the absorption of nutrients. Just what your champion needs to discover his new world!

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HOME APPLIANCES

Aggie Pinili, Account Manager
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Aries Espinosa, Editor

90 years of bringing the best to every home...everywhere

WHAT'S it like to be a nonagenarian? Do the years wear you down or is life as vibrant and exciting as your formative days? Apparently, life does get better as time goes on. Just ask the Whirlpool Corporation, which celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2001.

Whirlpool Corp. had its humble beginnings in 1911 as the Uptown Machine Co., For the next 90 years, despite the upheavals of history and the economy, that small business has grown and thrived.

Today Whirlpool is the world's leading manufacturer and marketer of major home appliances. The company manufactures in 13 countries and markets in more than 170 nations under major brand names such as Whirlpool, KitchenAid, Roper, Estate, Bauknecht, Ignis, Laden, Inglis, Brastemp and Consul. Whirlpool is also a leading supplier to Sears, Roebuck and Co. of several major home appliances marketed under the Kenmore brand name. Their products are so successful that one product is sold every two seconds in the world.

Keen on customer needs

One secret to Whirlpool's success is its keen understanding of the consumer's needs, which it has been developing for decades. Whirlpool's constant pursuit of customer insight has led to innovative products and services.

An eye for the environment

In addition to customer service, developing energy-efficient appliances has been an ongoing global commitment for Whirlpool since the 1970s. All over the world, Whirlpool continues to introduce products and features that earn awards and recognition, such as Brazil's Procel energy-efficiency seal and Australia's prestigious Galaxy Energy Awards for leadership in energy-efficient appliances.

The coolest features

Whirlpool has been exporting home appliances to Asia for over 30 years. In 1992, as part of an aggressive move to increase its presence throughout the region, Whirlpool appointed Excellence Appliance Technologies Inc. as the exclusive authorized distributor of the Whirlpool brand of products for the entire Philippines. Its showroom, located at 22 D. Tuazon Street, Quezon City, displays Whirlpool's outstanding product line-up. Now the prestige, efficiency, and durability of the Whirlpool brand are available for your home. Consider some of the unique features that have made Whirlpool the market leader in home appliances worldwide:

Airconditioners

Whirlpool's Whispure with 3M Filtrete Airconditioners are built to last from inside out. Its energy-efficient compressors, bacteria-resistant air filters, and aesthetically-designed front grills are cool features that are made to make a difference in your life.

Microwave ovens and ranges

Whirlpool microwave ovens are made to give you time for the little things that mean so much. With Whirlpool's *Crisp or Grill Function*, *Stage Cooking* and *One Touch Cooking Function* you can fry, grill, defrost, reheat, and cook things you never thought possible in a microwave oven.

Whirlpool's *Electric Ranges* are designed to fit your busy lifestyle and make you spend less time in the kitchen. It is safe, easy to use and clean, and large enough to cook a week's meal at a time. It is also flexible and built to give you the same results time after time

Washers and Dryers

Whirlpool's *Double-Duty Surgilator®* makes short work of even the heaviest wash-loads. It saves you water and energy, leaving you time for more important things, like straightening the tangles and removing the creases in your life.

The Whirlpool *Fully Automatic Dryer* is a lifesaver for large and active families. Its Accu-Dry® monitors the dryness of the clothes and automatically shuts the dryer off, helping you save on your energy bills, and making your home run smoothly and efficiently.

Refrigerators and freezers

Whatever your needs, Whirlpool has the right refrigerator and freezer for you, with convenient and cost-saving features that cater to your discriminating taste. The *Accu-Chill System* keeps the temperature consistent throughout the ref. The *Automatic Exterior Moisture Control* prevents "sweating" and moisture. And the *Built-in Bio Deodorizer* makes unpleasant odors a thing of the past.

The *No Frost Upright Freezer* is the first of its kind in the market today. And the sizable *Chest Freezers*, designed for durability and function, will meet all your frozen food requirements.

Quite simply, Whirlpool creates the world's best home appliances that make life a little easier and more enjoyable for all people. With such a long history and generations of satisfied customers, one can only expect Whirlpool to last another 90 years!

For more information on Whirlpool and its products, visit www.whirlpool.com.ph,

Whirlpool Home Appliances bring quality to life.

> Quite simply, Whirlpool creates the world's best home appliances that make life a little easier and more enjoyable for all people.

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Inside:

- **The basics of air conditioning**
- **Microwave dos and don'ts; cleaning tips**

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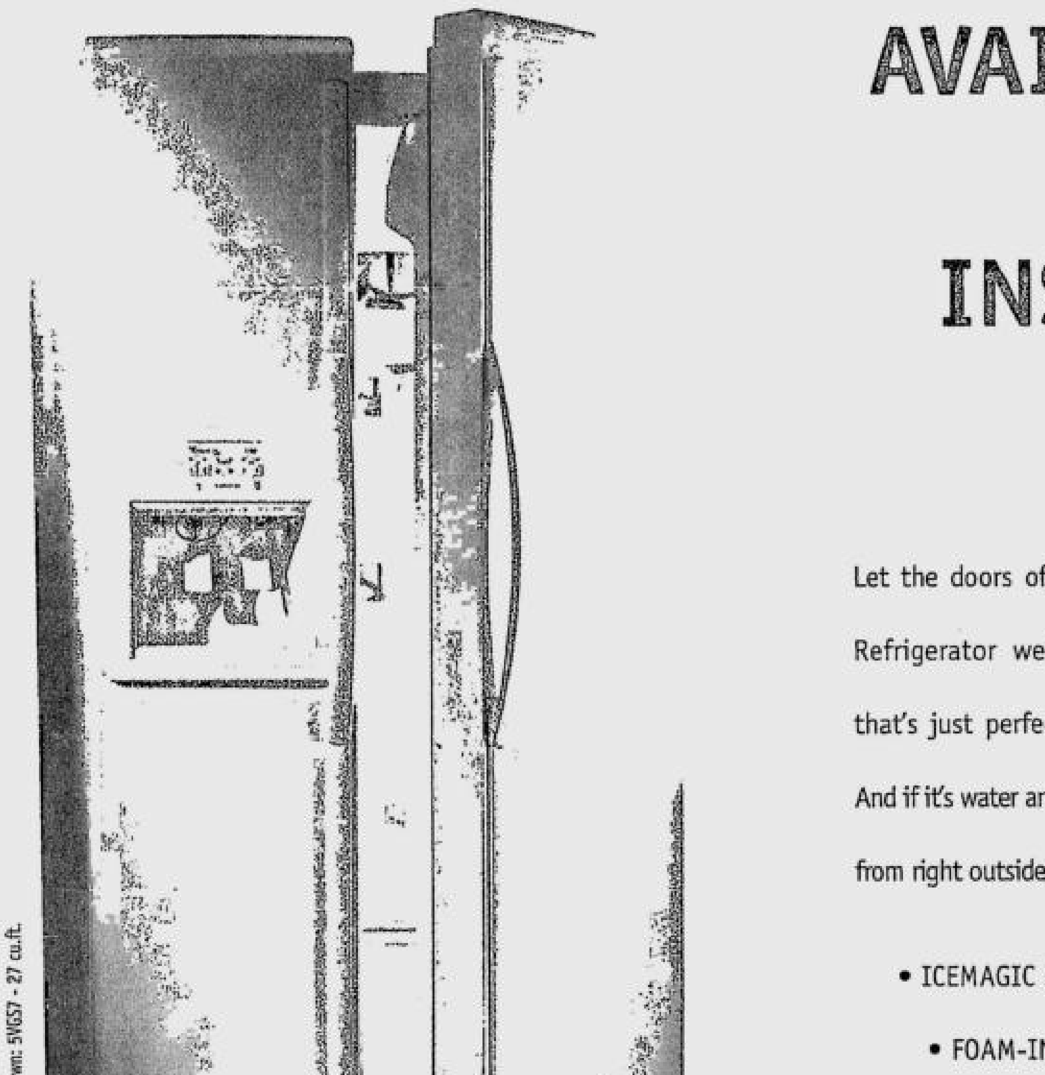
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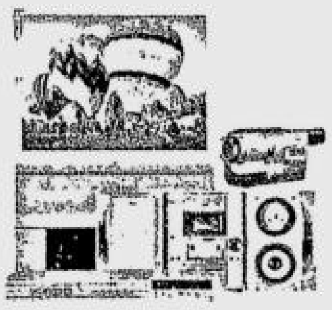

FILIPINOS love to be entertained whatever the medium. Since the introduction of radio in the country in the early 1920s, and of television during the late 1940s to 1950s by the Americans, people have turned to these appliances and gadgets for enjoyment and everyday information.

And no other appliance center has always been in the midst of these product introductions but Automatic Centre. Since 1948, it has been the leading retailer of audio and video products, as well as other home and office appliances.

And now, on its 54th year of service, Automatic Centre continues to give only the finest entertainment equipment. After all, many Filipino families have trusted the name Automatic Centre over the years when it comes to top-quality appliances in the country. And with its dedicated sales force and branch network, you are sure to get only quality customer service no other appliance store can give.

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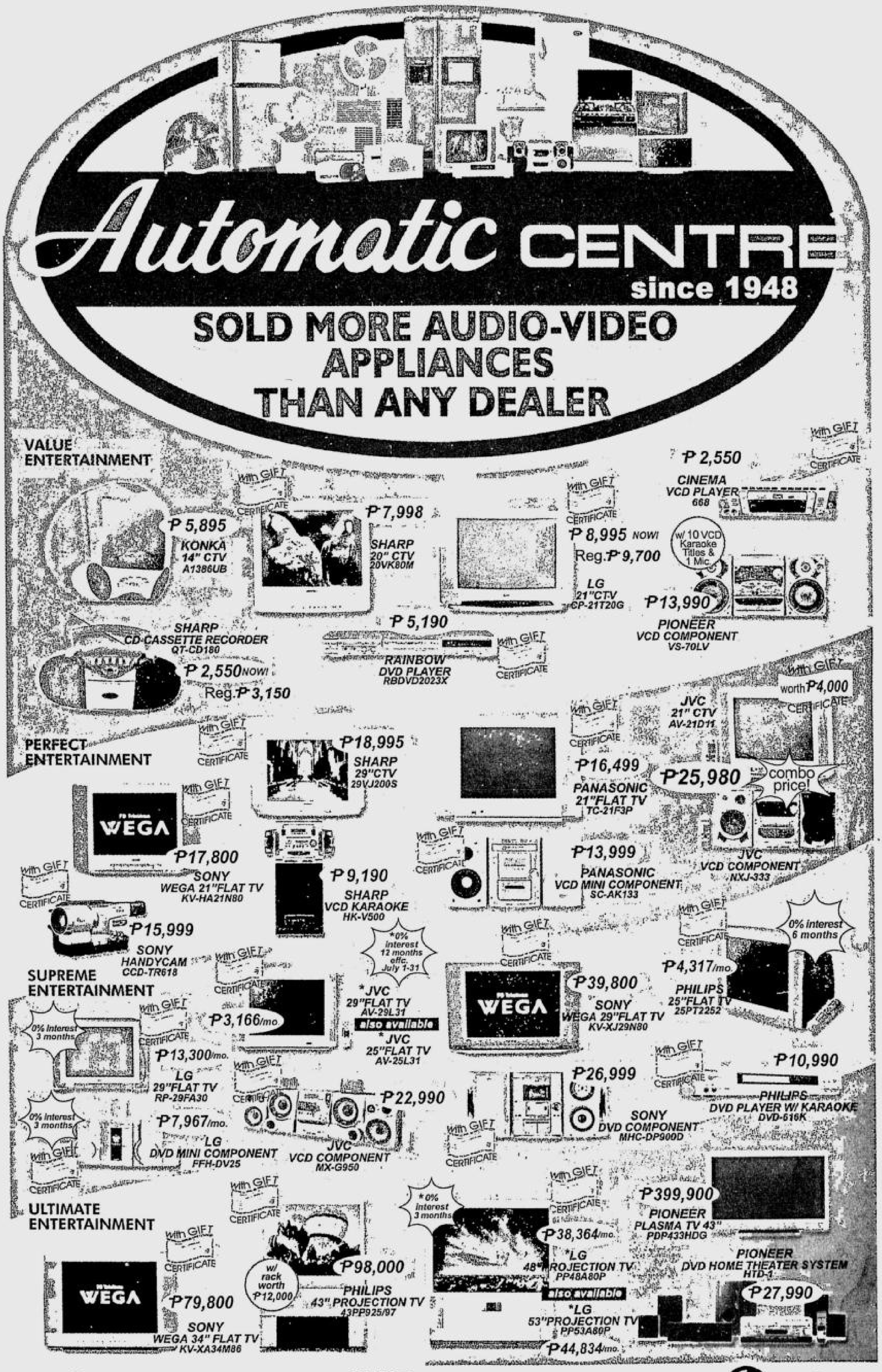

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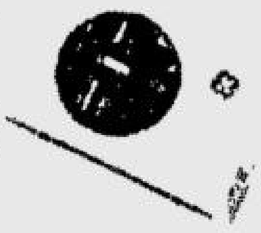
How air conditioners work

By Marshall Brain

When the temperature outside begins to climb, many people seek the cool comfort of indoor air conditioning. Like water towers and power lines, air conditioners are one of those things that we see every day but seldom pay much attention to.



Air conditioners come in various sizes, cooling capacities and prices. One type that we see all the time is the window air conditioner.

An air conditioner is basically a refrigerator without the insulated box. It uses the evaporation of a refrigerant, like Freon, to provide cooling. The mechanics of the Freon evaporation cycle are the same in a refrigerator as in an air conditioner. According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary Online, the term Freon is generically "used for any of various nonflammable fluorocarbons used as refrigerants and as propellants for aerosols."

This is how the evaporation cycle in an air conditioner works:

1. The compressor compresses cool Freon gas, causing it to become hot, high-pressure Freon gas.
2. This hot gas runs through a set of coils so it can dissipate its heat, and it condenses into a liquid.
3. The Freon liquid runs through an expansion valve, and in the process it evaporates to become cold, low-pressure Freon gas (light blue in the diagram above).
4. This cold gas runs through a set of coils that allow the gas to absorb heat and cool down the air inside the building.

Mixed in with the Freon is a small amount of lightweight oil. This oil lubricates the compressor.

Window units

A window air conditioner unit implements a complete air conditioner in a small space. The units are made small enough to fit into a standard window frame. You close the window down on the unit, plug the unit in and turn it on to get cool air. If you take the cover off of an unplugged window unit, you will find that it contains a compressor, an expansion valve, a hot coil (on the outside), a chilled coil (on the inside), two fans, and a control unit. The fans blow air over the coils to improve their ability to dissipate heat (to the outside air) and cold (to the room being cooled).

BTU and EER

Most air conditioners have their capacity rated in British thermal units (BTU). Generally speaking, a BTU is the amount of heat required to raise the temperature of one pound (0.45 kg) of water 1 degree Fahrenheit (0.56 degrees Celsius). Specifically, 1 BTU equals 1,055 joules. In heating and cooling terms, 1 "ton" equals 12,000 BTU.

A typical window air conditioner might be rated at 10,000 BTU. For comparison, a typical 186 sqm (2,000 square foot) house might have a 5-ton (60,000-BTU) air conditioning system, implying that you might need perhaps 30 BTU per square foot. (Keep in mind that these are rough estimates)

The energy efficiency rating (EER) of an air conditioner is its BTU rating over its wattage. For example, if a 10,000-BTU air conditioner consumes 1,200 watts, its EER is 8.3 (10,000 BTU/1,200 watts). Obviously, you would like the EER to be as high as possible, but normally a higher EER is accompanied by a higher price.

Split-system units

A split-system air conditioner splits the hot side from the cold side of the system. The cold side, consisting of the expansion valve and the cold coil, is generally placed into a furnace or some other air handler. The air handler blows air through the coil and routes the air throughout the building using a series of ducts. The hot side, known as the condensing unit, lives outside the building.

The unit consists of a long, spiral coil shaped like a cylinder. Inside the coil is a fan, to blow air through the coil, along with a weather-resistant compressor and some control logic. This approach has evolved over the years because it is low-cost, and also because it normally results in reduced noise inside the house (at the expense of increased noise outside the house). Besides the fact that the hot and cold sides are split apart and the capacity is higher (making the coils and compressor larger), there is no difference between a split-system and a window air conditioner.

In warehouses, businesses, malls, and large department stores; the condensing unit normally lives on the roof and can be quite massive. Alternatively, there may be many smaller units on the roof, each attached inside to a small air handler that cools a specific zone in the building.

Chilled-water system

In larger buildings and particularly in multi-story buildings, the split-system approach begins to run into problems. Either running the pipe between the condenser and the air handler exceeds distance limitations (runs that are too long start to cause lubrication difficulties in the compressor), or the amount of duct work and the length of ducts becomes unmanageable. At this point, it is time to think about a chilled-water system.

In a chilled-water system, the entire air conditioner lives on the roof or behind the building. It cools water to between 40 and 45 F (4.4 and 7.2 C). This chilled water is then piped throughout the building and connected to air handlers as needed. There is no practical limit to the length of a chilled-water pipe if it is well insulated.

Cooling towers

In all of the systems described, air is used to dissipate the heat from the outside coil. In large systems, the efficiency can be improved significantly by using a cooling tower. The cooling tower creates a stream of lower-temperature water. This water runs through a heat exchanger and cools the hot coils of the air conditioner unit. It costs more to buy the system initially, but the energy savings can be significant over time (especially in areas with low humidity), so the system pays for itself fairly quickly.

Cooling towers come in all shapes and sizes. They all work on the same principle:

O A cooling tower blows air through a stream of water so that some of the water evaporates.

O Generally, the water trickles through a thick sheet of open plastic mesh.

O Air blows through the mesh at right angles to the water flow.

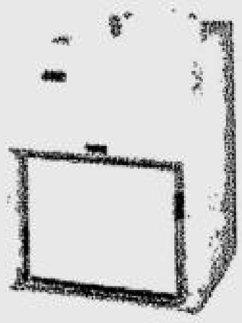
O The evaporation cools the stream of water.

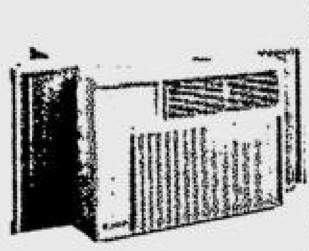
O Because some of the water is lost to evaporation, the cooling tower constantly adds water to the system to make up the difference.

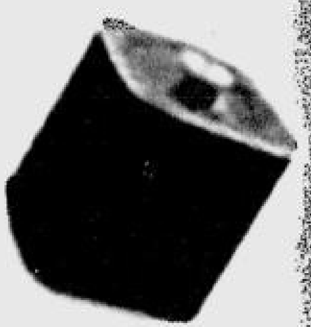
The amount of cooling that you get from a cooling tower depends on the relative humidity of the air and the barometric pressure. For example, assuming a 95 F (35 C) day, barometric pressure of 29.92 inches (sea-level normal pressure) and 80-percent humidity, the temperature of the water in the cooling tower will drop about 6 degrees to 89 F (3.36 degrees to 31.7 C). If the humidity is 50 percent, then the water temperature will drop perhaps 15 degrees to 80 F (8.4 degrees to 26.7 C). If the humidity is 20 percent, then the water temperature will drop about 28 degrees to 67 F (15.7 degrees to 19.4 C). Even small temperature drops can have a significant effect on energy consumption.

Whenever you walk behind a building and find a unit that has large quantities of water running through a plastic mesh, you will know you have found a cooling tower. In many office complexes and college campuses, cooling towers and air conditioning equipment are centralized, and chilled water is routed to all of the buildings through miles of underground pipes.

(The following article is an excerpt from Marshall Brain's site www.howstuffworks.com., where you'll find out how everything works.)







MICROWAVE FAQ
What you always wanted to know but were afraid to ask

What can you cook using a microwave oven?

: Well, it could be used for a myriad of things:

O Poach, toast and grill
O Roast papads as well as meats
O Grill meat, fish and vegetables
O Bake cakes, pastries, puddings, vegetables and pizzas
O Toast different breads
O Reheat or warm up foods without actually overcooking them
O Program cooking to your desired time
O Cook food at different power levels ensuring the desired extent of cooking
O Defrost chilled food to the extent desired by you, by setting an appropriate weight of time

Culinary experts and chefs are of the view that a microwave oven can cook very fast. It can retain the nutritive value, the color, and the texture. Cooking can be done very hygienically without any mess.

Where is the best place to put a microwave oven?

You can put a microwave oven anywhere that it's stable and where it has adequate ventilation. A microwave oven has a fan and vents through which it gets rid of its excess heat. You must not block the vents or the oven will overheat.

How can we clean the microwave oven?

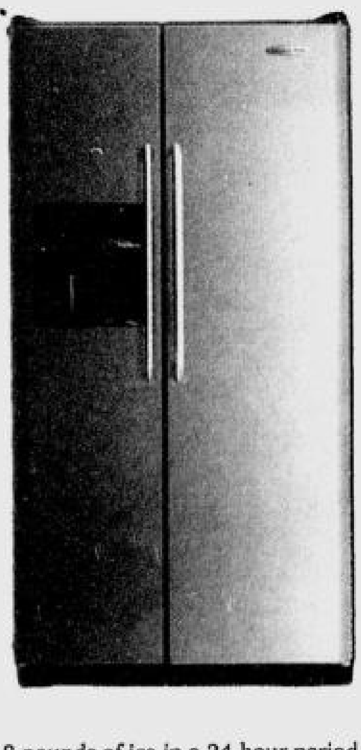
You have to clean it by hand with a sponge and perhaps a little soapy water. As long as you get the soap or any other cleaning agents out, you can clean the cooking chamber just as you'd clean the top of a stove.

How do we check the microwave output?

You can figure it out. Fill a glass measuring cup with exactly 1 cup of tap water. Microwave, uncovered, on "high" until water begins to boil.

If boiling occurs in less than 3 minutes, the wattage is 600 to 700. If it occurs in 3 to 4 minutes, the wattage is 500 to 600. If it occurs in more than 4 minutes, the wattage is less than 500 watts. ***(From the Buying Guide section of eBuyGuru.com)***

The New American Home stainless side-by-side ref



CMTC International Marketing Corp., distributor of quality home appliance brands such as Profiline ranges, Magic Chef and Maytag, recently launched its newest refrigerator model under the American Home brand, the PSPZ25V9AB, a 25 cu. Ft, stainless steel door side-by-side ref.

Manufactured in the United States, the new model was designed and engineered under strict quality atandards. New and improved featured were developed such as the "Gravity Closer Hinge" designed so that the bottom door hinge opens to an incline, the closing door uses gravity to increase the speed and closes securely. "Rapid Ice"--pressing a button allows the compressor to run 100 percent up to 16 hours. This allows you to create up to 8 pounds of ice in a 24-hour period. "Rapid Freeze" allows the compressor to run 100 percent for up to 12 hours, and freezes 33 percent faster than the competition.

Other features include two sliding and one cantilever spill-free glass shelves, two new clear adjustable humidity control crispers, chilled meat drawers, three adjustable door bins, two fixed bins, two tall bottle retainers and two snuggers. It also has a crystal clear ice and water filtration system, plus an ice cream shelf, two full and one half-sliding freezer basket, one fill-up/one fixed freezer shelf, four fixed freezer door bins and one door rack.

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Microwave Dos and Don'ts

DO follow the manufacturer's instruction manual for recommended operating procedures and safety precautions for your oven model.

DO read recipes ahead of time. If you plan to use frozen food as an ingredient, the recipe may call for a thawed product.

DO be aware of whether your microwave oven has a longer or shorter cooking time than average.

DO teach children how to cook correctly and confidently using the microwave oven. Keep in mind that, although containers are not heated by microwaves, they will absorb heat from hot foods.

DO keep your microwave oven clean, since any drippings affect the efficient operation of microwave energy. A messy microwave oven will cook more slowly and unevenly.

DO ensure that all food prepared in a microwave oven is at the correct temperature to allow it to be consumed safely. Cases have been reported where babies have received severe burns from boiling milk heated in a microwave oven.

DO check with your doctor if you have a pacemaker. Though modern pacemakers are shielded against interference, some older pacemakers may still be adversely affected by proximity to a microwave oven.

DON'T add an extension cord to the microwave's own cord. Microwave Ovens should have separate 220 grounded circuit.

DON'T operate a microwave oven empty. In some ovens the magnetron tube can be damaged by unabsorbed energy.

DON'T connect other appliances to the same circuit. Reduced electrical energy affects and may harm the microwave.

DON'T use a microwave oven if an object is caught in the door or if the door doesn't close firmly or is otherwise damaged. Don't tamper with or inactivate the interlocking devices.

DON'T poke any object, particularly a metal object, into the oven.

DON'T use scouring pads, steel wool, or other abrasives to clean the oven. Don't allow children to use microwave ovens unsupervised.

DON'T use microwave ovens for sterilizing baby bottles or other food utensils. This application does not allow adequate temperature for safe results.

DON'T dry or disinfect clothing or other articles in the microwave oven because of the risk of fire.

DON'T use plastic wrappings from purchased foods in a microwave oven, since they may melt.

DON'T use unsafe/non-microwaveable containers. Either the containers or the microwave may be damaged.

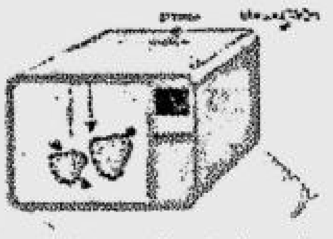
Successful microwave cooking depends on understanding the limitations as well as the benefits of this type of cooking. Correctly used, microwave ovens offer a convenient and safe method of food preparation, without any detrimental effects on consumer safety or nutrition. ***(From the Buying Guide section of eBuyGuru.com)***

The microwave oven is one of the great inventions of the 20th century. Microwave ovens heat only the food—nothing else.

A microwave oven uses microwaves to heat food. Microwaves are radio waves. In the case of microwave ovens, the commonly used radio wave frequency is roughly 2,500 megahertz (2.5 gigahertz). Radio waves in this frequency range have an interesting property: they are absorbed by water, fats and sugars. When they are absorbed they are converted directly into atomic motion—heat. Microwaves in this frequency range have another interesting property: they are not absorbed by most plastics, glass or ceramics. Metal reflects microwaves, which is why metal pans do not work well in a microwave oven.

You often hear that microwave ovens cook food "from the inside out". Let's say you want to bake a cake in a conventional oven. Normally you would bake a cake at 350 degrees F or so, but let's say you accidentally set the oven at 600 degrees instead of 350. What is going to happen is that the outside of the cake will burn before the inside even gets warm. In a conventional oven, the heat has to migrate (by conduction) from the outside of the food toward the middle. You also have dry, hot air on the outside of the food evaporating moisture. So the outside can be crispy and brown while the inside is moist.

In microwave cooking, the radio waves penetrate the food and excite water and fat molecules pretty much evenly throughout the food. There is no "heat having to migrate toward the interior by conduction". There is heat everywhere all at once because the molecules are all excited together.



There are limits, of course. Radio waves penetrate unevenly in thick pieces of food (they don't make it all the way to the middle), and there are also "hot spots" caused by wave interference. The whole heating process is different because you are "exciting atoms" rather than "conducting heat". ***(From Marshall Brain, www.Howstuffworks.com)***

People, Events & Products

Burger-eating contest at Flamers

FLAMERS will have its first-ever Quadzilla Combo Challenge speed-eating contest this August. The Flamers Quadzilla, consisting of four half-pound patties, comes with three strips of bacon, melted cheddar cheese, BBQ sauce, mushroom sauté, Swiss cheese, American cheese and Cajun spices. The Combo comes with a large order of finger thick fries and a bottomless drink.

Time trials for 100 Quadzilla challengers will be conducted throughout August, and the five fastest times will vie for the finals, where cash prizes are at stake.

The current record holder for the challenge is Robert Baranda from Slimmers World International who finished off the burger, fries and drink in 8 minutes, 35 seconds. The only other sub-10 minute Quadzilla finisher is Roberto Coseteng at 9 minutes, 45 seconds.

Those who want to take up the challenge (and enjoy great food, as well) can call the Flamers-Ortigas outlet at 687-1438.

Flamers is a US chain of gourmet hamburger restaurants based in Jacksonville Beach, Florida. Flamers in the Philippines are located in the 3rd level of Festival Supermall In Alabang, and at the ground floor of the Millennium Place along Meralco Avenue in Pasig City.

Globe offers Nokia 3310

GLOBE Handyphone buyers can get incredible savings on the Nokia 3310 when they buy a phone kit of the unit at any Globe Telecom Business Center, Hub store or authorized dealer nationwide. Now at its lowest price ever, the Globe phone kits of the Nokia 3310 are made more affordable by Globe at P4,390.

The Nokia 3310 Globe phone kits are packaged with a regular Globe Handyphone Prepaid SIM card with a preloaded credit of P100.

A treat for kids from Nestle Pure Life

NESTLE Pure Life offers moms and kids a back-to-school treat. Moms can avail themselves of a free school tote bag for every purchase of six 330 ml of Nestle Pure Life this whole month of July. Kids can carry their snacks and Nestle Pure Life in their tote bag anywhere in school while moms are assured their kids are drinking safe and healthy water throughout the day. Nestle Pure Life contains a balanced amount of essential minerals and an ideal balance of Fluoride.

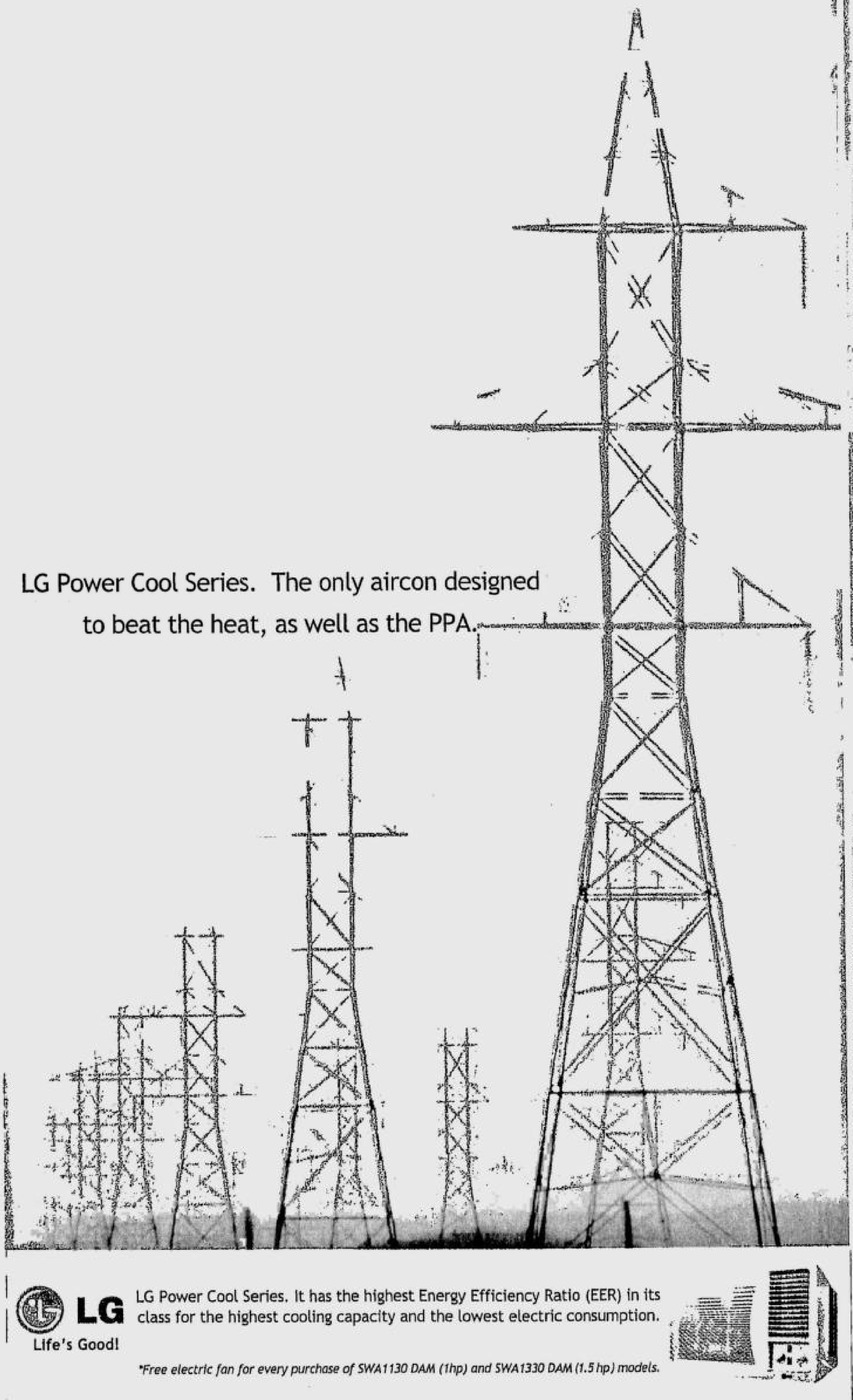
The time is right for Coca-Cola Light

IN 1982, the Coca-Cola trademark was extended for the first time with the launch of Diet Coke. Exactly two decades later, in the Philippines, an entirely new low-calorie version of the world's best-selling soft drink reaches store shelves, promising no compromise in taste with a sugar-free product called Coca-Cola Light.

The new drink was recently launched at the Bonifacio Global City's NBC Tent in a laser-cum-fashion event featuring the likes of Sarah Meier, Mylene Dizon, Epi Quizon and Angel Jacob.

With its fuller, bolder flavor—but still with less than one calorie for an eight-ounce serving—the new Coca-Cola light, as Coca-Cola Philippines division marketing director Emmanuel V. Puno states—fits into an evolved concept of fitness characterized with "total wellness and a balanced lifestyle."

Coca-Cola Light is initially available in cans and fountains. From free samples of Coca-Cola Light for all Citibank credit card holders from July to August, to sampling experiences at hang-outs, restaurants, cafes, malls, and workplaces, hip gimmicks are in store for consumers of Coca-Cola Light.


LG Power Cool Series. The only aircon designed
to beat the heat, as well as the PPA.

LG
Life's Good!

LG Power Cool Series. It has the highest Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER) in its class for the highest cooling capacity and the lowest electric consumption.

**Free electric fan for every purchase of SWA1130 DAM (1hp) and SWA1330 DAM (1.5 hp) models.*

[illegible]

Microwave Dos and Don'ts

DO follow the manufacturer's instruction manual for recommended operating procedures and safety precautions for your oven model.

DO read recipes ahead of time. If you plan to use frozen food as an ingredient, the recipe may call for a thawed product.

DO be aware of whether your microwave oven has a longer or shorter cooking time than average.

DO teach children how to cook correctly and confidently using the microwave oven. Keep in mind that, although containers are not heated by microwaves, they will absorb heat from hot foods.

DO keep your microwave oven clean, since any drippings affect the efficient operation of microwave energy. A messy microwave oven will cook more slowly and unevenly.

DO ensure that all food prepared in a microwave oven is at the correct temperature to allow it to be consumed safely. Cases have been reported where babies have received severe burns from boiling milk heated in a microwave oven.

DO check with your doctor if you have a pacemaker. Though modern pacemakers are shielded against interference, some older pacemakers may still be adversely affected by proximity to a microwave oven.

DON'T add an extension cord to the microwave's own cord. Microwave Ovens should have separate 220 grounded circuit.

DON'T operate a microwave oven empty. In some ovens the magnetron tube can be damaged by unabsorbed energy.

DON'T connect other appliances to the same circuit. Reduced electrical energy affects and may harm the microwave.

DON'T use a microwave oven if an object is caught in the door or if the door doesn't close firmly or is otherwise damaged. Don't tamper with or inactivate the interlocking devices.

DON'T poke any object, particularly a metal object, into the oven.

DON'T use scouring pads, steel wool, or other abrasives to clean the oven. Don't allow children to use microwave ovens unsupervised.

DON'T use microwave ovens for sterilizing baby bottles or other food utensils. This application does not allow adequate temperature for safe results.

DON'T dry or disinfect clothing or other articles in the microwave oven because of the risk of fire.

DON'T use plastic wrappings from purchased foods in a microwave oven, since they may melt.

DON'T use unsafe/non-microwaveable containers. Either the containers or the microwave may be damaged.

Successful microwave cooking depends on understanding the limitations as well as the benefits of this type of cooking. Correctly used, microwave ovens offer a convenient and safe method of food preparation, without any detrimental effects on consumer safety or nutrition. ***(From the Buying Guide section of eBuyGuru.com)***

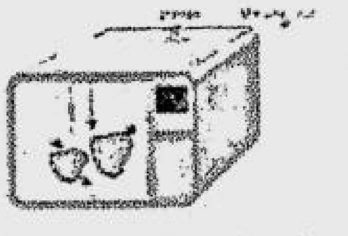
The microwave oven is one of the great inventions of the 20th century. Microwave ovens heat only the food—nothing else.

A microwave oven uses microwaves to heat food. Microwaves are radio waves. In the case of microwave ovens, the commonly used radio wave frequency is roughly 2,500 megahertz (2.5 gigahertz). Radio waves in this frequency range have an interesting property: they are absorbed by water, fats and sugars. When they are absorbed they are converted directly into atomic motion—heat. Microwaves in this frequency range have

another interesting property: they are not absorbed by most plastics, glass or ceramics. Metal reflects microwaves, which is why metal pans do not work well in a microwave oven.

You often hear that microwave ovens cook food "from the inside out". Let's say you want to bake a cake in a conventional oven. Normally you would bake a cake at 350 degrees F or so, but let's say you accidentally set the oven at 600 degrees instead of 350. What is going to happen is that the outside of the cake will burn before the inside even gets warm. In a conventional oven, the heat has to migrate (by conduction) from the outside of the food toward the middle. You also have dry, hot air on the outside of the food evaporating moisture. So the outside can be crispy and brown while the inside is moist.

In microwave cooking, the radio waves penetrate the food and excite water and fat molecules pretty much evenly throughout the food. There is no "heat having to migrate toward the interior by conduction". There is heat everywhere all at once because the molecules are all excited together.



There are limits, of course. Radio waves penetrate unevenly in thick pieces of food (they don't make it all the way to the middle), and there are also "hot spots" caused by wave interference. The whole heating process is different because you are "exciting atoms" rather than "conducting heat". ***(From Marshall Brain, www.Howstuffworks.com)***

People, Events & Products

Burger-eating contest at Flamers

FLAMERS will have its first-ever Quadzilla Combo Challenge speed-eating contest this August. The Flamers Quadzilla, consisting of four half-pound patties, comes with three strips of bacon, melted cheddar cheese, BBQ sauce, mushroom sauté, Swiss cheese, American cheese and Cajun spices. The Combo comes with a large order of finger thick fries and a bottomless drink.

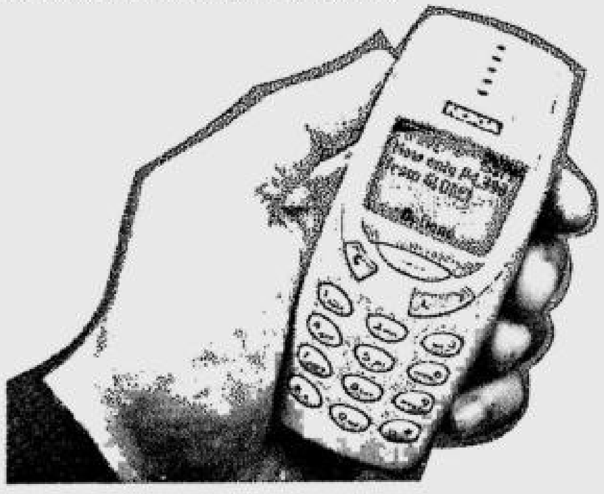
Time trials for 100 Quadzilla challengers will be conducted throughout August, and the five fastest times will vie for the finals, where cash prizes are at stake.

The current record holder for the challenge is Robert Baranda from Slimmers World International who finished off the burger, fries and drink in 8 minutes, 35 seconds. The only other sub-10 minute Quadzilla finisher is Roberto Coseteng at 9 minutes, 45 seconds.

Those who want to take up the challenge (and enjoy great food, as well) can call the Flamers-Ortigas outlet at 687-1438.

Flamers is a US chain of gourmet hamburger restaurants based in Jacksonville Beach, Florida. Flamers in the Philippines are located in the 3rd level of Festival Supermall In Alabang, and at the ground floor of the Millennium Place along Meralco Avenue in Pasig City.

Globe offers Nokia 3310



GLOBE Handyphone buyers can get incredible savings on the Nokia 3310 when they buy a phone kit of the unit at any Globe Telecom Business Center, Hub store or authorized dealer nationwide. Now at its lowest price ever, the Globe phone kits of the Nokia 3310 are made more affordable by Globe at P4,390.

The Nokia 3310 Globe phone kits are packaged with a regular Globe Handyphone Prepaid SIM card with a preloaded credit of P100.

A treat for kids from Nestle Pure Life

Nestle
PURE LIFE

NESTLE Pure Life offers moms and kids a back-to-school treat. Moms can avail themselves of a free school tote bag for every purchase of six 330 ml of Nestle Pure Life this whole month of July. Kids can carry their snacks and Nestle Pure Life in their tote bag anywhere in school while moms are assured their kids are drinking safe and healthy water throughout the day. Nestle Pure Life contains a balanced amount of essential minerals and an ideal balance of Fluoride.

The time is right for Coca-Cola Light

Coca-Cola light

IN 1982, the Coca-Cola trademark was extended for the first time with the launch of Diet Coke. Exactly two decades later, in the Philippines, an entirely new low-calorie version of the world's best-selling soft drink reaches store shelves, promising no compromise in taste with a sugar-free product called Coca-Cola Light.

The new drink was recently launched at the Bonifacio Global City's NBC Tent in a laser-cum-fashion event featuring the likes of Sarah Meier, Mylene Dizon, Epi Quizon and Angel Jacob.

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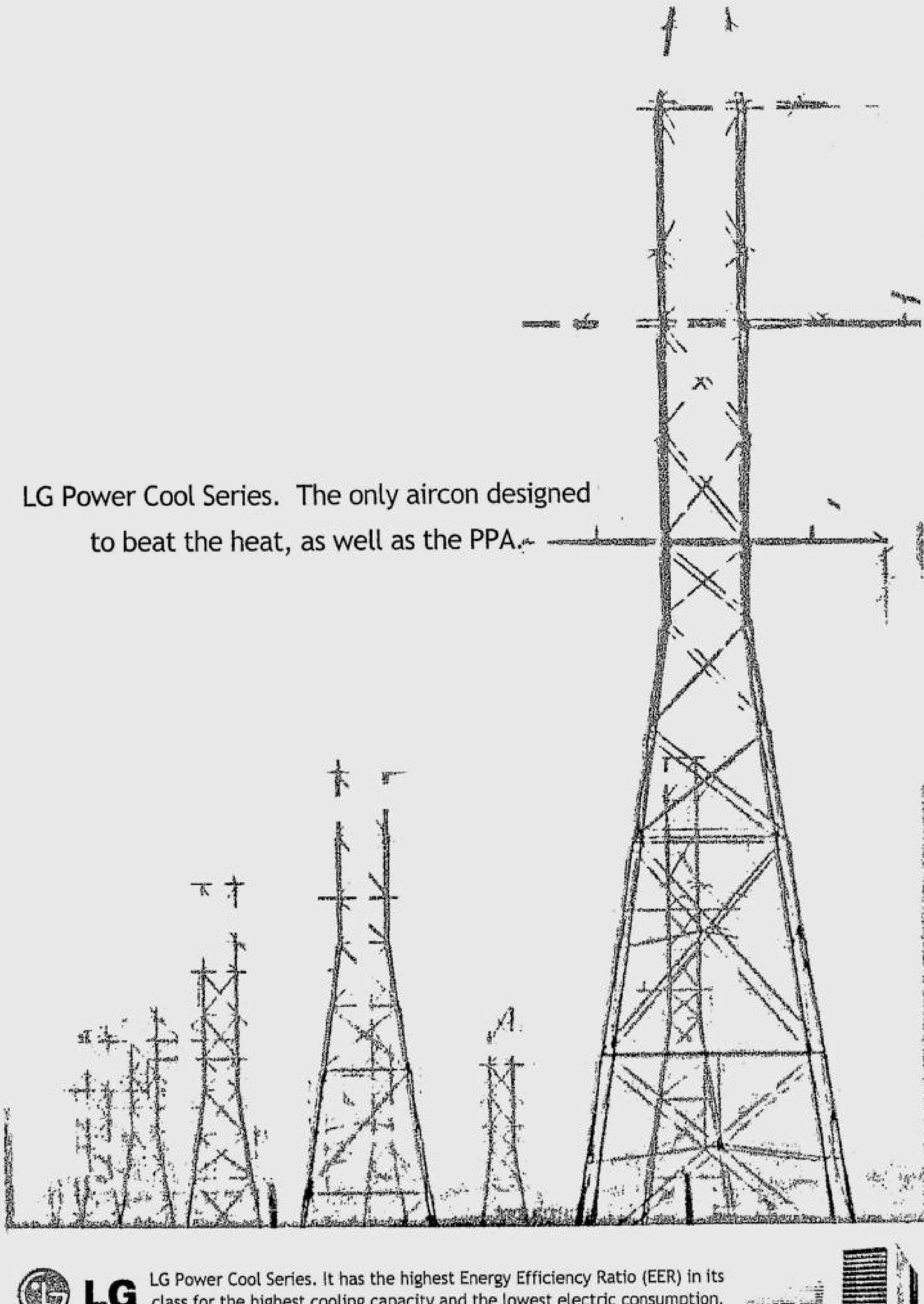
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LG Collins Electronics [illegible] Nos. 641-4181 up to 85 Fax 640-0460 Customer Information Center 640 2525